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EVERY WEEKEND

Treasury suffers £2bn revenue shortfall

Bootleggers force Brown's Budget hand

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

GORDON BROWN is to unveil a tougher-than-expected Budget after being hit by a £2 billion shortfall in revenue, much of it because of tobacco smuggling.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to announce an investigation into the operation of Customs and Excise after officials told him that he was losing more than £1 billion in duty a year through organised cigarette smuggling.

The worldwide drop in oil prices will also mean the loss of several million pounds in revenue.

Mr Brown's room for manoeuvre next Tuesday is believed to have been severely curtailed by the shortfall, which was not reflected in the healthy January borrowing figures that encouraged speculation about a generous Budget.

The Treasury has been alarmed by such reports, because the good January figures did not take account of the lost Excise revenue. Treasury insiders are urging caution and one said: "The Chancellor has made plain that he wants to keep to his golden rule that tax revenues have to cover current spending and that the public finances should remain in surplus for the next four years. If the revenues are lower than expected, it means that the amount we spend will not be as much."

That means hopes of much higher public spending emerging from the Budget are likely to be dashed. The allocations made to ministers in last year's comprehensive spending review are not under threat, but requests to Mr Brown for extra spending this year may fall on deaf ears.

It also remained uncertain last night whether Mr Brown would go ahead with his long-promised plan to introduce a 10p income tax rate next week. Most analysts had expected him to do so and to help to finance the change through cutting or wiping out the remaining 10 per cent of mortgage interest relief.

The Chancellor is still believed to want to tax child benefit, although a handshake carefully staged for the cameras marked the end of one of the longest political feuds in British politics on Saturday night (Shirley English writes).

Robin Cook and Gordon Brown officially buried the hatchet after barely speaking to each other socially for 20 years.

The truce was called at a party at Livingston Football Club to mark the Foreign Secretary's 25th anniversary as an MP. The two ministers shook hands while Mr Cook's wife, Gaynor, and Sarah Macaulay, the Chancellor's girlfriend, looked on. A few words of mutual admiration cemented the reconciliation.

practical difficulties over the principle of independent taxation mean that he is unlikely to do so this year. He may, however, set a target date to start taxing the benefit paid to all mothers.

The Government has been shocked by the rise in tobacco smuggling. Professional crime syndicates are moving to cigarettes because the authorities have been more successful in stopping drugs

smuggling. Container-loads of cigarettes are being brought through the ports with the result that one in eight cigarettes smoked in Britain is smuggled, according to government sources. Without a tip-off, Customs officers have little hope of stopping the trade and the loss to the revenue is likely to double within three years unless something can be done to check the trade.

To that end, Mr Brown is to appoint a senior figure from industry to take charge of efforts to clamp down on the illegal trade. His remit will include an overall look at Customs and Excise operations to see whether staff and resources are being deployed in the right way.

Mr Brown has, however, rejected calls to cut tobacco taxation as a way of deterring smuggling, and the cost of a packet of cigarettes is likely to rise by 20p to an average £3.64. Increasing the tax on smoking in part of the Government's health policy.

The new anti-smuggling chief will consider the practicalities of stamping cigarette packets with their countries of origin and the feasibility of equipping ports with giant X-ray machines to inspect containers.

Sources said the investigation would be rigorous and more officials are expected to be assigned to dealing with cigarettes.

"We are unlikely to put money into Customs unless we are absolutely satisfied that the money is being properly spent. The situation is deeply alarming. Some 2 per cent of the market was smuggled in 1996. That figure has gone up to 10 per cent in two years."



Sarah Macaulay and Gordon Brown at the celebration to mark Robin Cook's 25 years as an MP

Scottish Parliament to sideline the Queen

By Alan Hamilton

BUCKINGHAM Palace is dismayed by the Queen's limited role for the ceremonial opening of the Scottish Parliament. Edinburgh has been given by argument over the extent of the Queen's participation, with some nationalist voices wanting her to have only a minimal walk-on part.

Now, after months of bickering, a compromise has been reached: she will travel in the Scottish State Coach in a horse-drawn procession from the Palace of Holyroodhouse up the City's Royal Mile, but her part in the opening ceremony is expected to be a few formal words. The day's main event will be a "people's procession".

Traditionalists want her to wear the robes of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's equivalent of the Garter, but that has yet to be decided. Many Scots were offended when, in 1953, she made her first official visit to their country after the Coronation wearing ordinary day clothes and carrying a handbag.

Nor has it been agreed what ceremonial role will be given to the country's Crown Jewels, normally displayed in Edinburgh Castle. Some want them carried at the end of the procession from Holyroodhouse. At the annual State Opening of Parliament at Westminster the Imperial State Crown is borne in its own coach.

Palace officials are considering a greater role for the Princess Royal, already the Royal Family's most regular visitor to Scotland with a heavy programme of public engagements. But the Palace yesterday dismissed as "wholly wrong" a report that she would establish a permanent office at Holyroodhouse.

Sources also rejected a suggestion that the Queen would appoint a Private Secretary for Scotland.

"The Royal Family does not take Scotland — or for that matter Wales — for granted," a Palace source said yesterday. "... Scotland and Wales are important domestic issues and we will be looking closely at how the union develops."

Leading article, page 21

General in poll lead

Amid widespread allegations of vote-rigging, Oluf Falae refused to accept the victory of General Olusegun Obasanjo in the Nigerian presidential election.

International observers reported many irregularities and the country's transition from dictatorship to democracy was at risk as members of Mr Falae's All People's Party stormed out of the electoral commission offices during counting. Page 12

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Owen and Healey will mount anti-euro drive

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

DAVID OWEN and Denis Healey, veterans of the last Labour government, will return to the political front line today to present a challenge to the Government's move towards the euro.

Along with Lord Prior, the Heathite former Tory Cabinet minister, and leading businessmen, they will join forces in a powerful new group billed as pro-European but opposed to Britain abandoning sterling.

Their move comes the day after William Hague hardened his party's stance against the euro and made plain that he would be happy to be at the forefront of any anti-euro campaign.

The Conservative party leader brushed aside the announcement by five Europhile Tories that they would stand against the party in June's European elections and, in what was seen as a warning to Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, said that any Tory MPs

failing to back official candidates would be "out on their ear". He also announced a policy commission of economists and experts to study the advantages of keeping the pound. Mr Hague dismissed the newly formed Pro-Euro Conservative Party as a "sour grapes" party because two of the leaders had been deselected.

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Tony Blair's perceived shift towards the euro has launched the national changeover plan last week has given new urgency to today's launch. Lord Healey, the last Labour Chancellor before Gordon Brown, yesterday delivered a warning that the euro could crash before Mr Blair was called upon to make a decision.

Imposing a single interest rate and exchange rate meant the project was doomed to failure, he said.

Lord Prior, a former Northern Ireland Secretary and Employment Secretary and former chairman of GEC, issued a warning that monetary union could mean heavier social, labour and pension costs and that Britain should "give it a miss".

He said that he was sad to be in the opposite camp to his old friend and boss, Edward Heath. "But it is because I felt so strongly about this I decided it was time to stand up and be counted."

Lord Owen, former Labour Foreign Secretary, declared that he wanted Britain to remain self-governing. He will lead the New Europe group, to be launched in London this morning. He said he believed in the EU and single market, but did not want to be "dragged into a single state".

Straw returns to more controversy

By Claudia Joseph and Philip Webster

THE Home Secretary will be back at his desk today after disappearing for 72 hours at the height of the controversy over the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report.

Having evaded the media during his weekend in the south of France, Jack Straw will return to new claims of bungling in the Lawrence case

and calls for his resignation. But his most pressing task will be the publication of another critical report on race relations in the police force, published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Instead of facing MPs himself, Mr Straw left his deputy, Paul Boateng, to make an emergency statement to the Commons apologising for the "serious and regrettable" errors which led to publication of the names and addresses of police informants in the Macpherson report.

Yesterday Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, said Mr Straw should be "considering his position". The Home Secretary should have been in Britain, offering reassurance to witnesses and checking that they had not been placed in danger, Sir Norman claimed.

The Inspectorate of Constabulary report today is expected to castigate forces for not doing enough to combat racism.

Continued on page 2, col 8



Beano original sells for £6,000

By Hannah Betts



The first edition Beano, complete with mask

DENNIS the Menace and the Bash Street Kids were mere twinkles in the cartoonist's eye when the first edition of the Beano was published in 1938. Instead, Big Eggo the ostrich ruled the roost, a character long since consigned to comic history.

Lord Snooty is the only relic from 1938 to have lasted into the 1990s and only the boy aristocrat and his pals could now afford the original edition, which sold at auction yesterday for £6,200, the largest sum ever paid for a comic in Britain.

The proud owner is Oliver Driscoll, 25,

from Matlock, Derbyshire, a cameraman who grew up on the exploits of Dennis the Menace and Gnasher. After a battle of nerves in the auction room, Mr Driscoll felt he had got excellent value for money.

"It's brilliant," he enthused, holding back tears of emotion. "I've always been a big fan of the Beano and a first edition is something I've long since had my eye on."

The comic, dated July 30, 1938, is one of only six copies of the first edition known to be in existence. Its value was boosted because it came with the only known surviving Whoopee mask, a cover-mount given away free to readers.

The original owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, is a 70-year-old man from the West Country whose son galvanised him into action after watching a television programme about the value of old comics. The comic was bought for him by his mother for the princely sum of two old pennies — less than 1p.

Euan Kerr, today's Beano editor, said: "In those days, a comic was a completely throwaway item and nobody would have thought of keeping them, which is why they are so rare. This owner hadn't been keeping it as an heirloom. It had just been sitting up in a loft gathering dust."

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Lords commission expected to stumble over tight deadline

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Commission on House of Lords reform meets today for the first time amid growing criticism of its membership and timetable.

The 12-member body headed by Lord Wakeham, the former Tory minister, is expected to hammer out its work programme for the coming months and hold an initial discussion of the potential options for radical constitutional change.

The Commission has been or-

dered by the Government to report by the end of the year. If successful, the Commission will have been the shortest ever and will have solved in exactly 10 months, a thorny constitutional riddle which has remained unanswered for more than a century.

Constitutional experts believe the tight deadline means the Commission will not have time to think radically and will, instead, propose conservative reforms which are acceptable to the Government.

Concerns have also been raised

privately in the Lords over the distinguished but hardly radical membership of the Commission. Comprising nine men and three women, it includes Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Tory foreign secretary, Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet secretary, and Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, a former Clerk of the Parliaments.

The chief fear is that the Commission will simply follow the lead given by the Government in its recent White Paper and propose a mostly appointed second chamber with a

modest, indirectly elected element. "Whether the Royal Commission will be influenced in that direction remains to be seen," Lord Richards, the sacked Labour leader in the Lords, said last week. "I hope it will resist that temptation."

Writing in Bristol University's latest newsletter, Donald Shell, senior lecturer in politics and leading expert on the Lords, said: "One does wonder how serious an exercise the Commission and the chairmanship of Lord Wakeham is intended to be. Giving the task to a bunch of busy

people who will manage a few meetings between now and the end of the year implies that ministers want a solution to the House of Lords' problem, rather than any serious reflection on the role of the second chamber in the context of other constitutional reforms underway."

Some peers believe that if the Royal Commission does come up with radical proposals unacceptable to the Government, its report will simply be ignored. Lord Carter, the Chief Whip in the Lords, said last week during a debate on reform,

that there would be "no question" of the Royal Commission being ignored.

He added, however: "No government is bound by the conclusions of a royal commission. We cannot predict that the outcome of the Commission's work will be wholly acceptable to the Government."

Mr Shell believes that if the so-called Weatherill Amendment temporarily saving 91 hereditary peers from expulsion survives, the Government would be very tempted to ignore the Royal Commission's

work and just allow the transitional, appointed second chamber to become the long-term status quo. The amendment, expected to be tabled next month, when the first stage House of Lords Bill expelling hereditary peers reaches the Lords, was a government compromise to buy off Tory Peers threatening Parliamentary trench warfare.

The Commission will meet initially for a buffet lunch today at its Westminster offices in London.

Leading article, page 21

Jay faces row on change in rape evidence

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Minister for Women, Baroness Jay of Paddington, was last night at the centre of a row over government plans to reform the admissibility of women's sexual history as evidence in rape trials.

The proposals are shortly to be considered by the House of Lords. They are opposed by both the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and the organisation Women Against Rape — for conflicting reasons.

The controversy has been fuelled by the disclosure that the Government's own Women's Unit, headed by Lady Jay, says that there are times when a woman's sexual history may be relevant. In particular, the unit says that it could be relevant to whether a man thought a woman had consented to sex or not — the attacker's defence that he "thought she wanted it".

The Women's Unit says: "A defendant might claim that he believed the complainant was consenting because he had been told that she always kicked and screamed during sex. This would be relevant to his honest belief."

The disclosure, in a letter to Women Against Rape, has outraged and dismayed the group, which argues that the Home Secretary's proposals give wide latitude for a woman's sexual history to be admitted. Under present law, a man cannot be convicted of rape if

he honestly believed a woman consented. This is based on a ruling in 1976.

In a reply to the Women's Unit, Women Against Rape condemn the failure by Lady Jay to meet their request — backed by 200 organisations — to support a ban on questions about sexual history in rape trials. "How can rape victims expect protection if after two decades of campaigning for protective laws, the Women's Unit — which is supposed to represent their interests — believes rapists' lies over women's evidence?" the pressure group says. "Rapist after rapist has been allowed to walk free after claiming that the victim he had beaten black and blue loved 'rough sex'."

Jack Straw's proposals seek to curb judges' discretion on admitting as evidence a woman's sexual history. But judges would be able to admit such material where it is evidence of a man's belief in consent. Women Against Rape say that this means the protection which the proposals appear to give would evaporate. They want tighter restrictions.

The Lord Chief Justice is arguing that what is admitted should be at the discretion of the trial judge, as now. The Bill will also stop defendants cross-examining their victims, a move opposed by the Lord Chief Justice — and also by Women Against Rape.

Ruth Hall, of Women

Against Rape, said: "This is a false protection. Most rapists are represented by barristers who are more skilled than themselves in humiliating and discrediting victims." The issue was not who asked the questions, but what questions were asked, she added. "Many countries now ban sexual history evidence. None makes an exception for a man who claims he believed that a woman who was kicking and screaming was consenting."

The proposals are contained in the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill and are expected to be debated by peers at the Bill's Report stage.

The Women's Unit says that Lady Jay shares the concern of Women Against Rape that "irrelevant evidence about complainants' previous sexual history should be kept out of sexual offence trials."

The Lord Chief Justice wishes to retain the discretion that judges currently have on whether sexual history is allowed; but Women Against Rape argue that the Government's proposals create a huge gateway for sexual history to be admitted. Lord Thomas of Gresford has highlighted the fundamental flaw in the Bill that "in almost every case where the defence is one of consent, there will be an additional defence that, even if the complainant did not consent, the defendant reasonably believed that she did consent."



Errol Kerr loves figures so much that he is able to recognise video films by the serial numbers that flash up

Boy has genius figured out at 3

HE HAS a photographic memory, can count to ten in five languages including Swahili, recognises videos by their serial number, has an IQ of 150 — all at the age of three.

Errol Kerr, who has just started nursery school, has astonished his family and teachers. His parents, Alison, and Steven, are desperately trying to keep up with their son's insatiable appetite for knowledge.

Mrs Kerr, 33, from South Shields, noticed her son's talent when he was just a baby. "He was very demanding. I

could only feed him or dress him when I played certain kinds of music. It was if the words were registering with him. When he was about 12 months I used to put Disney videos in the recorder for him, but he would shout out what they were before they came on the television I tried to do it

without showing him the cover, but he still knew what it was. It was then I realised that he was recognising the serial number that flashes up before the trailers start.

"Before he was two he could name every make of car on the road. He would say 'There's a Nissan' or 'There's

a Volvo'." Tests showed that Errol had an IQ level in reading and comprehension of 150, equivalent to that of an eight-year-old.

The local authority has assigned education experts to monitor the boy's progress. A spokesman for South Tyneside Education Authority said: "Errol has outstanding ability."

Mrs Kerr, a computer operator who has two other children, said: "I don't know where he gets it from; he certainly doesn't take after me or my husband."

Cars end sales rush confusion by T-time

By MICHAEL PATTERSON

A QUIET motoring revolution took place today as T-time arrived early. T-reg numberplates were being introduced only seven months after S-reg ones.

In recent years, a quarter of new car sales have been in the first few days of August, the month for new registration letters since 1967. But car industry representatives had complained that manufacturers had to stockpile cars and could not guarantee to give customers the best service in the annual late summer scramble.

The Government is allowing new registration plates to be released in March and September. The new letter is the first step in the overhaul of the traditional car registration system, which will switch to a computer-style regional identification system by 2001.

Those who covet the latest letter seemed unaware of the impending change yesterday. Since 1992, Does, a large Ford showroom in Croydon, South London, has marked the arrival of new letters by opening at midnight, sometimes with a steel band. Last night it stayed shut.

One of its salesmen, Jason Chuter, said: "More than half the people looking for a new car this weekend didn't even know the T-reg was about to arrive."

He said that it was too cold for midnight celebrations, which would probably return in September.

The move to a twice-yearly letter change, which is being paid for by manufacturers after they requested the move, will even out demand for new vehicles over the year, according to experts.

Police investigate MoD hacker claim

SCOTLAND YARD'S Fraud Squad is investigating allegations that a hacker has succeeded in breaking into secret military installations in Britain (Michael Evans writes).

Fraud Squad officers who are responsible for investigating offences against the Computer Misuse Act began inquiries after suspicions that several "international sites", including military installations, had been targeted by a hacker. Scotland Yard confirmed that an investigation was under way but refused to give any more information.

Ministry of Defence sources firmly denied a report that a hacker had managed to take control of one of Britain's mili-

tary communications satellites and had altered its course. The MoD's SkyNet 4 satellites provide secure communications for all British Armed Forces overseas. Until last week there were four such satellites in orbit. Last week a fifth satellite was launched on an Ariane rocket at the European Space Centre in French Guiana. MoD sources said all the SkyNet satellites were "on course" and denied that a hacker had tried to interfere with them.

A Sunday Business report claimed that the MoD had had to report that one of its satellites had been taken over by a hacker. The MoD sources said the satellites were immune from hacking.

IRA weapons will not be forfeited, say chiefs

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN'S leaders emphatically ruled out IRA disarmament yesterday as several thousand supporters attended a Belfast rally to demand their party's immediate and unconditional inclusion in Northern Ireland's new government.

"There's not even the remotest possibility of the IRA responding to this unilateral demand... for the surrender of the IRA," Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, told the BBC.

He added that Unionists were "unable to accept that in the course of 30 years they

hadn't the ability to militarily defeat the IRA."

Michael McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's more moderate chairman, issued the same defiant message at the afternoon rally. He accused Unionists of fighting a rear-guard action against change and nationalist empowerment, and said their veto on full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement had to be removed.

"We are sick, sore and tired of [Unionists] blocking, stalling, prevaricating, making deals then backing out of deals and constantly trying to re-

write the Good Friday agreement," he said.

The Government has set Wednesday week as a target date for transferring power to Northern Ireland. That will not happen unless the new executive has been set up but David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, will not set up an executive that includes Sinn Fein without a downpayment of IRA weaponry. Mr McLaughlin insisted Sinn Fein was committed to contributing to building trust, but any capitulation to Unionist demands would be a betrayal.

Straw family take flights on cheap

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

THE Home Secretary and his wife, Alice, who earn more than £150,000 between them from three houses, saved £360 by flying to the south of France on the budget airline easyJet.

EasyJet's most expensive flights, from Luton to Nice, cost £129 each way but Mr Straw, who earns £87,851, booked the tickets before Christmas at a discount price of £39 each.

Like the other passengers on the two-hour cut price flight, the couple, who have been married for 20 years, were not offered a meal on the aeroplane, just crisps, biscuits and

hot and cold drinks. It is the second time the couple have saved money on airline flights. Last week's Register of Members' Interests disclosed that the Straw family obtained an upgrade to club class on their British Airways flights to and from Delhi over Christmas, saving them £8280.

Mr Straw, 52, who has been an MP since 1979, and his wife, who is the second most senior civil servant in the Department of Health, enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Mrs Straw, 49, earns between £75,210 and £109,420 as director of resources and service. They own three houses, including the family home in a fashionable square in London.

Straw back to face a new outcry

Continued from page 1

year after an initial report from weaknesses.

While Mr Boateng stood at the despatch box, Mr Straw and his wife Alice, a senior civil servant at the Department of Health, were in the middle of a flight to the French Riviera.

The couple bought their easyJet budget flight tickets in December, at a cost of £39 each way instead of £129, but chose not to change it despite the airline allowing passengers to change their flights for £10 plus the difference in seat prices.

Instead they caught the 10.45am easyJet flight from Luton Airport to Nice, only informing a handful of Whitehall officials where they were going.

In a direct message to the black community, Tony Blair will today tell the *New Nation* newspaper that Britain is lagging behind the United States in its treatment of ethnic minorities.

"In all honesty, I don't think I can say that enough has been done to improve race relations in the UK," he says.

Meanwhile the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt Rev Dr John Sentamu, who was one of Sir William's inquiry team, said it took full responsibility for including informants' details in the report's appendices.

Russian threat will cost RAF £1bn for new missile

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Ministry of Defence will spend £1 billion to replace one of the missiles selected for the RAF's Eurofighter in order to counter the threat of a new Russian air-to-air missile.

Western intelligence services have warned that the new Russian missile will be faster and have a longer range than the medium-range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM) to be fitted to the Eurofighter. The RAF is

buying 232 Eurofighters at a cost of £15 billion. The first are due to come into service in 2002.

Although a cash shortage has stopped work on the new Russian missile, it is feared that countries that have Russian fighters, such as China and India, may help fund the programme. Intelligence services believe that it will take four years to finish developing the missile.

The British and other European defence ministries still try to stay ahead of Russian weapons technology because Moscow sells its arms to

an increasing number of foreign customers. Defence sources stressed that the Eurofighter would still have a more sophisticated radar than the best Russian fighters, as well as better defensive systems and electronic warfare equipment.

However, the potential threat posed by the Russian missile is being taken so seriously that the Government is to approve the development of a superior weapon. The MoD is this week expected to ask for final bids for a missile that will be able to hit a target at least 70 miles away.

The range of AMRAAM is only about 20 miles. The contract is expected to be awarded during the summer.

The choice to be made is between a European collaboration involving, among others, British Aerospace and GEC, and an American system developed by the Raytheon company, makers of the AMRAAM.

The European missile, called Meteor, would not be in operation until about 2007, five years after Eurofighter comes into service. Raytheon is offering an interim weapon sys-

tem based on AMRAAM which could be ready by 2004 and a more advanced missile, comparable to the Meteor, about three years later.

The European consortium has dismissed Raytheon's interim missile as "inadequate".

The Government is being warned that if it chooses the Raytheon weapon, it could put at risk export sales of the Eurofighter because Congress in Washington has the power to veto the sale of any aircraft armed with an American missile.

Sources in the European consorti-

um said the Meteor would have a significantly better performance than the existing AMRAAM, using a German-designed ramjet propulsion system. They said the motor of the AMRAAM only functioned at top speed for about seven seconds, after which the missile began to slow down, reducing its "killing" ability at the far end of its maximum range.

In recent clashes over Iraq, Iraqi MIG jets were able to outrun AMRAAMs launched by American fighters.

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Heading the ball is fool's game, says GP

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEADING the ball outside the penalty area should be banned to protect football players from brain injury, according to a GP who advises a league club.

David Kernick, medical officer to Exeter City, says that a rule change is needed immediately as evidence mounts that repeated heading may cause mental decline.

Writing in *The British Journal of General Practice*, published today, Dr Kernick says it is estimated that there are over a million regular soccer players in Britain alone. In view of the huge numbers active in the sport round the world, if heading the ball caused even a slight amount of brain damage there would be significant public health consequences.

Although the dangers of serious head injury while playing the game are recognised, there is conflicting evidence about whether heading the ball is hazardous.

A benefits tribunal in Scotland last year rejected an appeal for compensation by Billy McPhail, a former Celtic star, who claimed that his pre-senile dementia was caused by frequently heading heavy leather balls. He scored hat-tricks of headers when Celtic beat Rangers 7-1 in the 1967 Scottish Cup Final and Sir Tom Finney, giving evidence on his behalf, told the tribunal: "Billy was outstanding in the air... There's got to be a link between heading these balls and problems in later life."

A recent survey using brain scans on professional Norwegian players found they did suffer real neurophysiological impairment. Another study of Norwegian amateur players published in *The Lancet* also found subtle changes in their ability to reason.

The Football Association's medical committee is to start a career-long monitoring programme of 15 apprentices to see if heading the ball causes permanent damage. They will be reviewed every five years.

Dr Kernick says that it will be difficult to obtain clear evidence, but the latest studies do imply that heading poses a danger. He accepts that it would be impossible to ban heading altogether because it is an essential part of the game and "offers an important dimension of play, particularly around the goalmouth."

However, because of the risks, he argues that a compromise may be acceptable. "There can be few global health proposals that cost nothing, are easy to implement and have the potential to confer benefit on such a large number of people," he said.



The bi-monthly magazine will have a readership of 10,000 but the advertisements are aimed at the elite with seven-figure transfer fees rather than the less affluent world outside the Premier League

Title for men with world at their feet

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE first life-style magazine for professional footballers has been launched, filled with glossy advertisements for fast cars, country mansions and luxury yachts.

The Players' Journal is distributed free to an elite of 1,000 men with a combined earning power of about £361 million.

The advertisements tempt the Premiership's finest with playthings such as a yacht which cruises the Caribbean for \$87,500 a week, and a Fiat Audelina car, which does 0-60 in 6.2 seconds and has a top speed of 153mph. For the less playful, there is a modern mansion with almost as many bathrooms as bedrooms, costing £1.9 million.

They are also adverts to attract the wives and girlfriends who help to spend the seven-figure transfer fees and bonuses.

"Footballers do it by numbers," says the advertisement for Classic Nouveau Registrations, which offers personalised number plates such as FAS 7, 60 GO and MONEY, with prices up to £99,500.

There are lots of glossy colour pictures, mainly action shots of famous players from Bobby Charlton to Michael Owen, in the 130 pages of the bimonthly produced by the Professional Footballers Association. The cover boy is David Beckham. The articles give an idea of the tribulations of a rich and famous footballer's life. A section headed "Can I thump him?" contains five pages of advice about how to tackle nosy reporters and photographers. A sports lawyer writes: "Apart from the fleeting moment of pleasure that it may give, hinting a member of the press or a photographer will almost certainly result in an action being taken against you."

The Health and Fitness section has an introduction to the hamstring, complete with pictures of a masked surgeon, players being stretched away in agony, and Alan Shearer warming up. (Next issue your pulse and what it's telling you.)

An article headlined "Villas go top" gives tips on how to arrange a sunshine break in a remote villa, because "luxury, privacy and independence score highly in your list of holiday priorities".

Another feature asks: "What sort of player is the ad man's dream?" After five pages of consideration, the author concludes: "Blend the skill and application of Kenny Dalglish and the flair and high profile of George Best, and you have the ad man's dream."

The Players' Journal itself is the real ad man's dream. The magazine is being delivered through the doors of all PFA members, and is the only way to target this highly lucrative niche market. The readership is about 10,000.

Not everything is decadence and pleasure in a footballer's world. HSBC Personal Disability Insurance has an advertisement showing a player on a stretcher with the ironic headline "A great future".

Next to the "Can I thump him?" feature is an advertisement for automated gates, and a few pages later is one for bodyguards.

Ken Bruce, chief executive of Futures In Sport, which has taken a two-page spread for management training courses, thinks *The Players' Journal* may have too many pages.

The majority of footballers seem to have a very low boredom threshold," he said. "They don't seem the sort of people to sit down and read a 130-odd page magazine."

While it is easy to imagine a footballer's girlfriend such as Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams browsing through the advertisements, the magazine may leave a Third Division player struggling to pay the mortgage feeling a little cold.

Michael Tait, whose Property Hunters service finds homes for people who are rich and busy, said it was a "fair assumption" that none of his clients played for Leyton Orient or Barnet.

Shearer scores over the tycoons

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

ALAN SHEARER, the England and Newcastle striker, is reported to be Britain's highest earning footballer, with £77.5 million a year including a long-term £20 million boot deal with Umbro.

The wages and salaries bill of the Premier League was £218 million, according to the latest Deloitte Touche survey, while even the journeymen of the Third Division received £18 million.

Footballers' earnings have been rising rapidly, by more than 25 per cent a

year, and the figure for this season is likely to be considerably higher.

The Deloitte Touche survey put the total wage bill of the 92 league clubs at £361 million, but that excludes the sponsorship deals which can increase a player's cash earnings fivefold. Well-known players from all divisions often have to pay nothing for luxuries as sponsors lavish them with designer boots, socks, shirts and even sports cars.

Manchester United spent £23 million on salaries, Newcastle United £17 million, Arsenal and Liverpool £15 million each.

Hartlepool United spent £503,000. Paul Gascoigne is reputed to earn £13.5 million a year. David Beckham £9.4 million. Michael Owen £7 million.

The basic salary of a chief executive in the FTSE 100 is £428,000, although that is boosted to £617,000 with his annual bonus and long-term incentive plan. Charles Brinkley, the global investment service AMWES earns £2.5 million a year. The Prime Minister gets £102,750 on top of his MP's salary of £48,000 (although Tony Blair chooses to draw just over that).

Salvatore Ferragamo



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Spice babies 'at risk of deafness'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Spice Girls babies are in danger of being born slightly deaf, new research suggests. The children's ears are at risk because of the noise level at events, particularly by their mothers.

Michelle Brown, known as "Scary Spice", gave birth to a daughter last week and "Posh Spice" Victoria Adams is expecting a baby within a couple of months.

Researchers have found that even in the womb, such noise can permanently damage a child's hearing. Unborn babies can also be partially deafened if their mothers move the lawn roller in power boats or are exposed to prolonged noise at their workplace.

"While we don't have direct measurements, we recommend that pregnant women avoid such noise exposure if possible," Professor Kenneth Gershwin, of Florida University, National Hearing Conservation Society at Atlanta, Georgia. The rule of thumb is

that if you have to speak loudly to be understood, that noise environment is potentially dangerous to your hearing and your infant's hearing.

Linda Frazier, of the University of Kansas, said that human studies had shown that the loss of hearing among children of women who worked in noisy places was enough to make it difficult for them to hear teachers at school and possibly cause learning difficulties.

As many as 640 children born in Britain each year have a significant hearing impairment. The National Deaf Children's Society said that the problem was not noticed in half of the children until they were 18 months old, and that it was not noticed diagnosed in a quarter of them until they were 7. Thousands more suffer hearing loss through illness or accident. As many as a quarter of five-year-olds have lost hearing as a result of ear infections.

Thin Red Line defies US attack

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

WAR is being waged over the title of the American film *The Thin Red Line*, which went on general release this weekend. Concern has been expressed that the phrase which described British troops in the Crimean War will be lost to Hollywood's definition in the minds of young moviegoers.

The director Terrence Malick's three-hour war epic, starring Sean Penn and Nick Nolte, tells of an American attempt to capture the Pacific island of Guadalcanal from the Japanese forces in 1942.

The film's publicity attributes the title's origin to an old saying from the American Mid-West: "There is only a thin red line between the sane and the mad." Britons hold that the phrase originated with *The Times* war correspondent Sir William Howard Russell, who used it to describe the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders at the Battle of Balaklava on October 25, 1854.

Forming a two-deep defensive line to repel the Russian advance, he said in his dispatch that their scarlet tunics appeared as a "thin red streak topped with a line of steel".

The phrase "the thin red line" was later attributed to him and the regiment, now the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, adopted it as its own. Despite the regiment abandoning red tunics for dark green jackets and Black Watch tartan kilts, the phrase remains the title of the regimental magazine. The event inspired one of the best known 19th-century battle paintings, *The Thin Red Line* by Robert Gibb, the Scottish artist.

Tim Hall, of Thin Red Line, a shirtmaker in Savile Row, London, which supplies the military, said yesterday: "We are proud of the historical and British connotations of our name and naturally it is of some concern to us that as a result of the Terrence Malick film the phrase will be widely misunderstood."

Michael Tait, whose Property Hunters service finds homes for people who are rich and busy, said it was a "fair assumption" that none of his clients played for Leyton Orient or Barnet.

Victim



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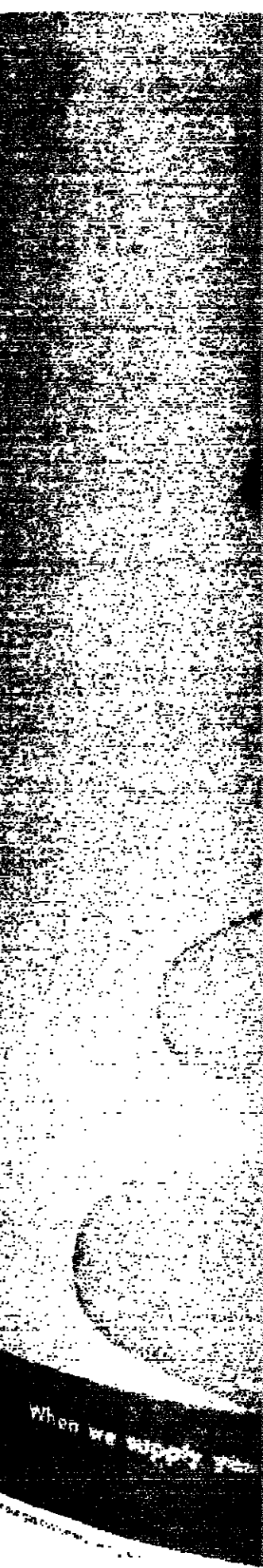
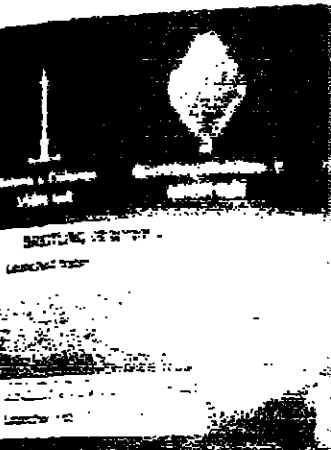
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Fight fan dies as riot breaks out after bout

BY MICHAEL PATERSON

A BOXING fan died after falling under the wheels of a coach while trying to escape fighting that broke out after a Commonwealth title bout. Violence raged around the ambulance as they tried to save the man's life.

The 31-year-old was carried into the coach for treatment but rioters, one swinging a chain above his head, forced their way inside. Windows were smashed and passengers assaulted while the ambulance men attempted to revive him. Fighting broke out between supporters after the Commonwealth middleweight title bout between Jason Lewis and Paul Jones at Oldham Sports Centre on Saturday. The conflict spilled out into the car park where the man was fatally injured. He will be named today.

The ambulance men, who asked not to be named, spoke of their horror at the fighting. One, who has 15 years experience, said: "It was the sheer level of violence that shocked us. It was a baying mob. Any-

one else could have run away or defended themselves but we were there with a job to do. We were there to save someone's life and we couldn't just leave."

His colleague, in his 40s, said: "We are used to dealing [with situations] where violence does occur, but not of this magnitude."

The man who died had travelled from London in the coach to watch the fight between Jones, 32, of Sheffield, and Matthews, 28, from Hackney, East London. A sell-out crowd of about 1,000 saw Matthews win after Jones was disqualified by the referee, John Coyle, in the seventh round for continuous holding.

Greater Manchester Police are to examine the role that alcohol played in the night's events. Some witnesses reported that many fans had been drinking.

A spokesman for Frank Warren's Sports Network, which promoted the show, said that no comment would be made as the violence had not hap-

pened in the boxing arena. The British Boxing Board of Control said: "We deeply regret this tragic loss of life of a young man who had come to enjoy himself at a boxing tournament. There had been no trouble inside the hall and the boxing that had taken place had been enjoyable and robustly supported, apart from a disappointing main event."

Violence at boxing bouts is becoming more regular. The most recent outbreak was last July, when fans of Michael Smyth threw chairs and punches as he lost to Geoff McCreech in a British welterweight title bout in Reading. Some bouts may attract football hooligans. The Football Intelligence Unit of the National Criminal Intelligence Service has attended boxing matches, notably the light-middleweight contest between Robert McCracken, a Birmingham City fan, and Steve Foster, a Manchester United fan, in 1994.

Boxing, page 38

Murdered girl's body found in shallows

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE body of a 15-year-old girl was found in a lake by two boys skateboarding at the weekend. She had been murdered.

The body of Rachel Glenn was discovered in the shallows at Charnwood Water in Loughborough, Leicestershire. She had disappeared on Wednesday.

Police confirmed that Rachel died from drowning but said there were signs of a struggle and that head injuries may have been a contributory factor in her death.

The area was sealed off by police yesterday as divers searched the lake for clues. Officers also searched surrounding parkland.

Detective Superintendent Bryan Warraker, who is leading the investigation, said Rachel had last been seen by friends on Wednesday but was only reported missing by her mother on Friday. He said: "It was not unusual for Rachel to go off with her friends. On this occasion we were contacted when all the other checks her parents had done failed to locate her."

Police arrested an 18-year-old local youth yesterday in connection with the murder. He was being questioned at Loughborough police station.



Devon Aoki, the 16-year-old London schoolgirl who has become a top model

Schoolgirl is a hit in fashion world

BY DEBORAH BRETT
IN MILAN
AND CLAUDIA JOSEPH

DONATELLA VERSACE unveiled her Versus line last night at Alcatraz, the Milan nightclub, with the help of her new muse Devon.

Measuring in at a mere 5ft 6in, Devon Aoki, the 16-year-old London schoolgirl, is even shorter than Kate Moss, who at 5ft 7in was an exception to the catwalk height rule of at least 5ft 10in. With long light-brown hair and hazel eyes, Devon has caught the eye of the fashion photographers Jürgen Teller and Steven Meisel, who featured her in Italian Vogue, and has landed the Chanel and Versus advertising campaigns as well as being a favourite of the designer Yohji Yamamoto.

She fits in modelling around her schoolwork and shot the Versus advertisements last week before returning to London to attend lessons for the rest of the week.

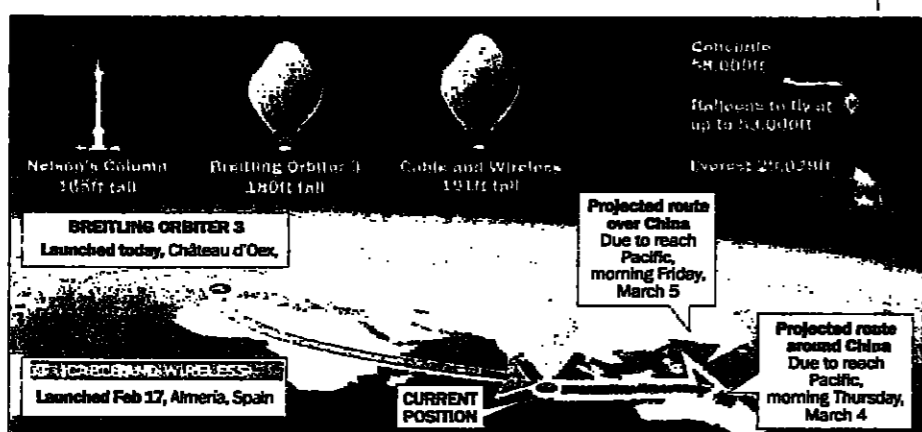
Sarah Doukas, managing director of the model agency Storm, signed Devon after Miss Moss, another client, spotted her in an American magazine. Ms Doukas, who knew Devon's parents previously, said: "She is one of the most successful girls in the world at the moment but is also very academic. The work she has done is exceptional. It is no longer seen as a hindrance for shorter girls to appear on the catwalk, as clothes are always fitted to each model beforehand."

The search for a new face, a representation of the look a label wants to achieve, has gathered pace to the point where a new muse is now proclaimed every season.

Devon, whose mother accompanies her on trips, seems unphased by all the attention. As a teenager she is more enamoured with skateboarding and bands than her modelling career.

Last night, after-show entertainment was provided by the Grammy award-winning Lenny Kravitz, who took to the stage for a one-hour concert.

Rivals on tail of Briton who designed their balloon

FROM HELEN RUMBELOW
IN CHATEAU D'OEX

THE record-breaking balloonists Andy Elson and Colin Prescott are facing a challenge from a craft due to be launched in Switzerland today. It would be the first time two round-the-world attempts have been pitted against each other in the air.

Bertrand Piccard, a Swiss psychiatrist, and Brian Jones, a British ballooning instructor, are attempting lift-off in Breiiting Orbiter 3. Although Mr Elson and Mr Prescott have more than ten days' start, they are handicapped by being unable to catch the fast winds over China.

All British-registered balloons were banned from China after Richard Bran-

son trespassed into its air space at Christmas. This has cost the Cable and Wireless team nearly a week as it made a detour. Mr Elson and Mr Prescott, who beat the world record of ten days in the air over Burma on Saturday, are moving at a frustrating 25mph as they try to clear the Bay of Bengal without drifting north to China.

They predict they will reach the Pacific by Thursday at the earliest. Mr Piccard and Mr Jones aim to tail them into the Pacific by Friday and may overtake shortly afterwards if their winds are favourable.

Mr Elson has built his own possible Nemesis: the Breiiting team is taking advantage of his balloon design from when he was its engineer and pilot last year. He spent nine days aloft with Mr Pic-

card, an attempt also thwarted by a Chinese ban. Although they are both balloon fanatics — Mr Piccard is the grandson of Auguste Piccard, who invented the modern balloon capsule — there was a personal clash and Mr Elson left Breiiting soon after their crash landing last year.

His consolation in the present rivalry is that he left the Swiss team without the expertise to work his unique kerosene fuel system. The Breiiting crew admits that Mr Elson's invention "offered an enormous advantage" but has been forced to switch back to the more conventional propane. This means that the Cable and Wireless team are carrying 25 days' fuel while Breiiting has enough only for 21 days, because propane is heavier to store.

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TV presenter is critical after police accident

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE award-winning broadcaster Sheena McDonald remained in a critical condition yesterday after being hit by a police van.

The 44-year-old journalist suffered serious head injuries when she was knocked down just before midnight on Friday in Islington, North London, as the van was answering an emergency call.

Doctors at the University College Hospital in Euston said that Ms McDonald, a veteran presenter of *Channel 4 News*, *The World This Week* and BBC's *On The Record*, remained in an intensive care unit.

Her family was last night maintaining a bedside vigil at the hospital. Despite her injuries, it is understood that there are no immediate plans for Ms McDonald to undergo surgery.

Ms McDonald began her career as a newsreader with BBC Radio Scotland. She spent eight years at Scottish Television before moving to London to begin work for Channel 4.

Stuart Cosgrove, the Scottish-based head of programmes at Channel 4, said yesterday: "Sheena is a great stalwart of Channel 4 and an important broadcaster. All our

thoughts are with her and we hope she makes a speedy recovery."

Yesterday Alan Little, Ms McDonald's boyfriend, joined her family at the hospital after flying in from Moscow, where he is the BBC's correspondent. Mr Little, a former war reporter who has won awards for his coverage of the Gulf War and the war in Bosnia, has been with Ms McDonald for four years.

Gordon Brown, who was romantically linked with Ms McDonald while they were at Edinburgh University in the 1970s and again in 1994, is also being kept informed of her condition. The Chancellor, who

spent the weekend in Scotland with his fiancée, Sarah Macaulay, remains a close friend.

Reports emerged in 1994 that the pair were seeing each other again before Mr Brown began his relationship with Ms Macaulay, a public relations company executive, later that year.

Ms McDonald, who chaired the judging panel for the Orange Fiction Prize last year, was knocked down in St John's Street, Islington. The police van, which had its blue lights flashing and siren on, was answering an emergency call to a fight on nearby Holloway Road.

Scotland Yard said that the driver, a 27-year-old constable, had been suspended from driving and that an investigation launched as part of standard procedure.

Both the driver and his 30-year-old colleague were unhurt.

Thirty-eight people, including six police officers, died in accidents involving police vehicles in London over the six years to 1998. During the year 1997/98 there were 5,710 police accidents. Police officers were found to be at least partially at fault in more than 2,000 of them.



McDonald suffered severe head injuries



A young Carry On fan admiring a poster of Kenneth Williams. His one-time co-star, Patsy Rowlands, said that the films "didn't have a deep meaning"

BY HANNAH BETTS

A NEW generation is rebelling against new Labour's prissy nanny state by crying "Oooh, Matron!" and embracing the 31 politically incorrect films of the *Carry On* canon.

The academic Andy Medhurst told a conference at the National Film Theatre — a London venue better known for screening the classic films of Andrei Tarkovsky, Krzysztof Kieślowski and Akira Kurosawa — that the comedy classics had found themselves a new audience.

"In Blair's Britain we're always being told to be decent, upstanding citizens," said Dr Medhurst, a senior lecturer in media studies at Sussex Uni-

New generation falls for Carry On classics

versity. "It's no surprise that people turn to something that says 'Soit that. Let's get drunk and have a bit of a grope and a laugh'."

"What used to be the preserve of a working-class audience has acquired a cult status with a young, mainly middle-class, clientele."

"In the 1960s middle-class youth held the films in contempt. On a Saturday night they'd all be off to the Hamp-

stead Everyman to see the new Antonioni. Now there's been a post-modern shift and suddenly *Carry Ons* have what we might call cultural capital."

Dr Medhurst was joined on stage by the *Carry On* actress Patsy Rowlands and photography director Alan Hume. Both said that their new fans look for too much meaning in the films. "Students do read so many things into it," said Ms Rowlands. "I

get letters asking 'What were you thinking when you said that line?' The truth is I was probably thinking about what I'd be picking up from Sainsbury's on the way home. It didn't have a deep meaning."

But Andrew Spearman, 25, defended fans of his generation. "I don't think it's something we take too seriously. It's just a bit of fun — a Sunday afternoon thing that we all grew up with. There is an element of ironic appreciation, of course, but I wouldn't say it's the main factor."

□ In May, Pinewood studios will cash in on the trend with its first official *Carry On Day* — a *Carry On*-style event involving coach parties and a buffet lunch.

Advertisers not amused by sitcom's failure

£500,000 for first 2000 slot

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV's efforts to attract the viewers with a comedy based on a successful American series have failed to impress public and critics alike. *Days Like These*, which had been hoped would end ITV's reputation for mediocre sitcoms, may now be scrapped.

Based on the top-ranking American series *That '70s Show*, it was made under the auspices of the US team Carney-Werner, producers of *Roseanne*. It is set in 1976 and centres on a group of teenagers trying to circumvent the authority of their parents. In the American version they live in Wisconsin; in the British version, Luton. But critics say the concept does not work on this side of the Atlantic.

David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, commissioned an initial 12 episodes with an option for ten more. However, it is now likely that the second batch will be cancelled and sources say the series may even be dropped before the end of its current run.

Pressure is building on ITV executives, as advertisers were promised the show would win audiences of up to 10 million. Instead, fewer than six million people have tuned in.

The show, shown on Friday evenings, is so far absent from ITV's schedule for March 12 — when BBC1 broadcasts *Comic Relief*. Insiders say executives fear its ratings may collapse when it is pitted against the popular fundraiser, and an edition of *You've Been Framed* is to be shown instead.

An ITV source said: "It's difficult to see how it can last at this rate. The figures have dropped as low as four million at some points in the programme and the advertisers are not going to stand for that. In commercial television you have to deliver the goods but so far *Days Like These* has failed to do that."

It is not the first time that attempts to anglicise an American show have failed, although the idea has worked well in the opposite direction.

COMPANIES bidding to become the last television advertiser in this millennium and the first in the next could have to pay up to £1 million for the privilege.

Experts predict that a 30-second national slot either side of midnight could cost more than £500,000, compared with a usual peak-time rate of £100,000.

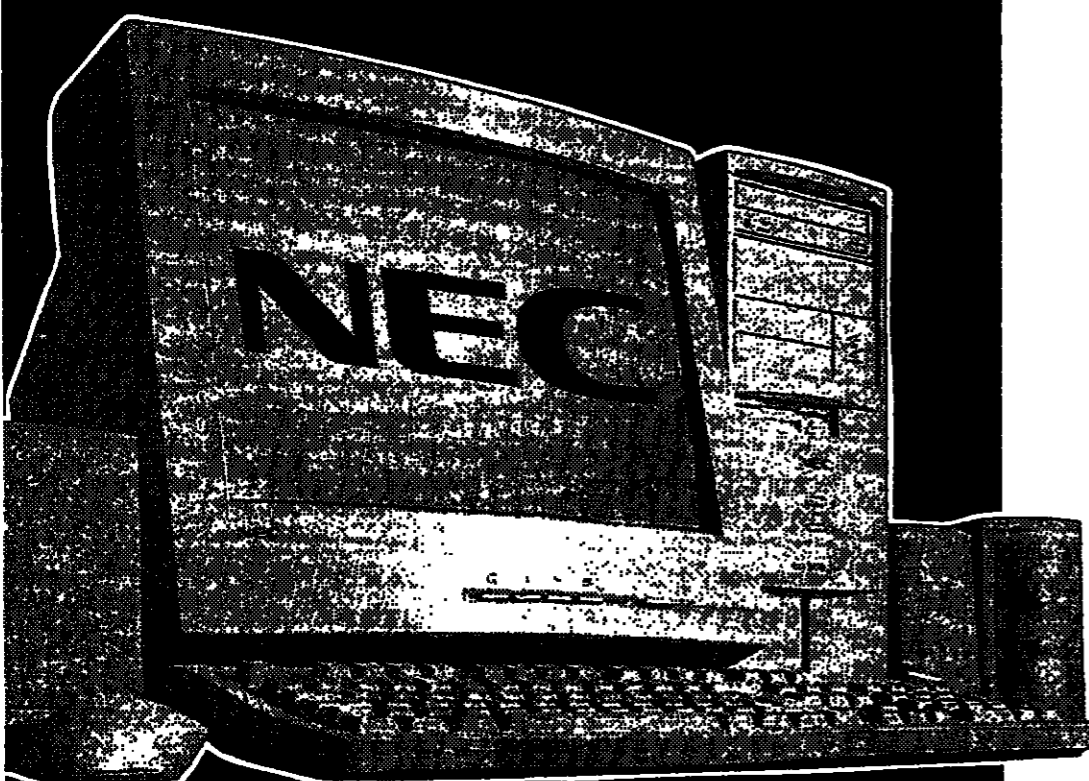
One advertiser, Abbey National, is known to have approached ITV stations three years ago to buy up the first-in-2000 slot. Another contender for the opening commercial is Whitehall's publicity machine, the Central Office of Information.

Granada Media Sales, which handles advertising for five ITV areas, has been approached by about a dozen companies interested in securing advertisements.

Jo Brinkman, publicity officer, said: "A lot of people turn on their TVs to see Big Ben chime in the New Year and there is a certain amount of kudos about being first in 2000. We obviously want to maximise revenue as well as being fair."

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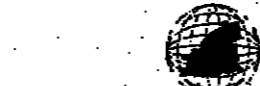
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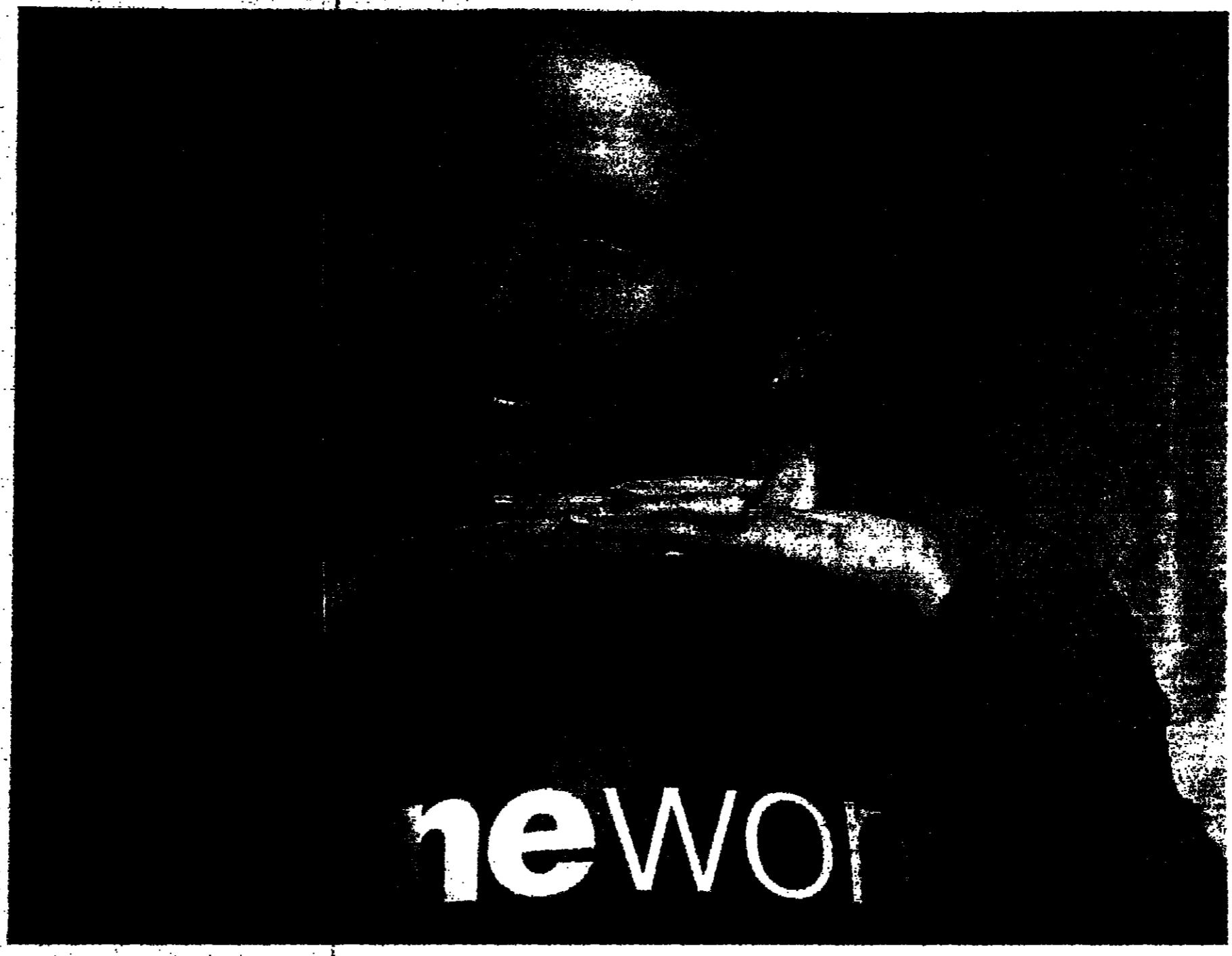
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Hague to seek ways of saving the pound

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE hardened the Conservative Party's anti-euro stance yesterday by announcing a policy commission to investigate keeping the pound and withdrawing from cross-party preparations for the single currency.

He warned senior Tories to campaign for the party's candidates rather than members of the new Pro-Euro Conservative Party in the forthcoming European elections. Under pressure because of poor poll ratings and further signs of Tory divisions on the issue, Mr Hague declared that any one failing to back official candidates would be "out on their ear".

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine have not denied reports that they met Tony Blair and Gordon Brown in advance of last week's publication of the National Changeover Plan for the euro. It is unlikely, however, that they would back non-official candidates.

Mr Hague's announcement of a policy commission, expected to be headed by a former Cabinet minister and containing economists and City experts, showed that he is ready to put himself at the head of the anti-euro campaign.

He said that the commission would assess how Britain could take fullest advantage of its own currency. "I'm going to make sure that the facts and the information and the debate is there, to make sure people really do have a choice."

He added in a reference to today's introduction of the New Europe group: "Other people in other parties, like David Owen, are going to join me in making sure that the country has a choice. I'm very happy to be on that side of the argument, so let battle commence."

Mr Hague said the Conservatives would withdraw from the cross-party committee that

will oversee the National Changeover Plan examining how the euro could replace the pound, announced by Mr Blair last Tuesday. "The nature of that committee has changed. It is now to prepare for the introduction of the euro in Britain and to do so without having sought the consent of the voters... I think that is wrong," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*.

David Davis, who until yesterday was the Tory member on the committee, said that it was about little more than trying to convince the public that the euro was inevitable.

"The Government should not attempt to pre-empt the decision of the British people," he said. "It is constitutionally unsound and democratically improper. It is now clear that the Government's intention is that the pound is to perish. I will have no part of this."

□ The Pro-Euro Conservative Party said that it would field at least five candidates in the summer's European elections. Its leaders John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly will be joined by two more former Tory MEPs, Paul Howell, who represented Norfolk for 15 years until 1994, and Andrew Pearce, Member for Cheshire West and Wirral for ten years until 1989; and a former journalist, Richard Bassett. Mr Pearce resigned from the Conservative list of candidates for the North West to join the new party. Mr Stevens said: "We are announcing our decision to stand as candidates in this year's European elections to assure Conservative voters that they will have a choice in June between the Eurocepticism offered by William Hague's candidates and a positive attitude towards Europe, in particular towards the euro."

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article and
Letters, page 21



Lord Owen, once backed by Lord Sainsbury of Turville, left, is now supported by Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover

Trouble is in store as euro splits the Sainsbury family

THE emergence today of New Europe, the group opposed to Britain joining the single currency, confirms the political split in one of Britain's richest families.

One of the financial backers of the campaign is Lord (John) Sainsbury of Preston Candover, cousin of Lord (David) Sainsbury of Turville, the Science Minister, who gave up the post of chairman of the supermarket giant last year, having taken over from his older cousin John. When he joined Tony Blair's Government, the 391-store group was left without a Sainsbury family member for the first time in its 129-year history.

The dynasty has long been associated with politics. John's brother, Sir Tim Sainsbury, was a minister in the previous Tory Government. Sir Tim's son-in-law is Shaun Woodward, Conservative MP for Witney, and a former Tory spin doctor.

But for David Sainsbury the birth of New Europe, under Lord Owen, may be an unhappy event. He, after all, is a close friend of David Owen and helped to

Minister will not be happy that cousin backs New Europe, writes Philip Webster

bankroll the Social Democratic Party in its early days; pro-Europeanism was one of the party's guiding policies.

With the demise of the SDP and Labour's shift to electability, David Sainsbury became close to Mr Blair, gave large sums to the Labour Party, and ended up in the Government, in which he serves as an enthusiastic Europhile.

His political rift with his cousin will surprise few observers of the retail trade. The word has long been that they do not get on. John Sainsbury, a senior executive for a lengthy period during which it overtook Marks & Spencer as Britain's

most profitable retailer, has been said to be a hard-headed autocrat. He was known for pacing his stores, checking that the produce was fresh, the cans stacked properly, and living the maxim he inherited from his father: "Retail is detail."

David, by contrast, was always regarded as quiet, thoughtful and approachable. He was quoted at the time of his succession as saying of his cousin: "He loses his temper and I don't."

David's father, Lord Sainsbury of Drury Lane, the grandson of the founders of the chain, died last year at the age of 96. He too was involved in politics, standing as a Liberal candidate, joining Labour and then the SDP.

The Sainsburys are proud of their record of supporting political initiatives. Their tastes are various. Last year a one-off edition of *Mirror* today thanked "James Sainsbury for his very generous donation." James is the son of Sir Tim. His sister Camilla is married to Mr Woodward.

THE OPPOSITION

Democracy Movement
The multinational businessmen Paul Sykes formed movement "Night Embers of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party and is chairman. At "Democracy Day" this month supporters will be asked to "give a pound to save the pound".

Heavyweight Organisation
Heavyweight organisation that will marshal anti-euro forces in City and business worlds. Cross-party, fronted by Lord Marsh.

Global Britain
Think-tank with uncompromising anti-European attitude, founded last year by the Tory peer Lord Pearson of Rannoch. Believes in complete withdrawal from Europe.

Europe Group
Created to support philosophy of stridently anti-Brussels speech that Baronesse Thatcher delivered in Bruges in 1988. Conservative Against a Federal Europe

Conservative Group
Group backed by MPs such as Teresa Gorman who defied John Major and were excluded from Tory ranks in Parliament.

Europe Foundation
Run by the Conservative Tory MP Bill Cash. Publishes monthly magazine, *European Journal*.

European Nationalist Group
Founded by Sir Michael Spicer, focuses on mobilising political opposition to Europe. Organised as organisation to bring together European nationalist groups from other European countries.

European Nationalist Party
Anti-euro organisation with roots in No Campaign set up during Common Market membership referendum. Run by Lord Stoddart of Swinton and Sir Richard Bony, Tory backbencher.

UK Independence Party
UK party seen as closest to since departure of its leader Alan Sked. Recently seen as closest to since departure of its leader Alan Sked.

European Labour Party
Labour Party group, dominated by old Labour figures such as Lord Stoddart of Swinton and Sir Richard Bony.

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THE SUPPORTERS

European Labour Party
Labour Party group, dominated by old Labour figures such as Lord Stoddart of Swinton and Sir Richard Bony.

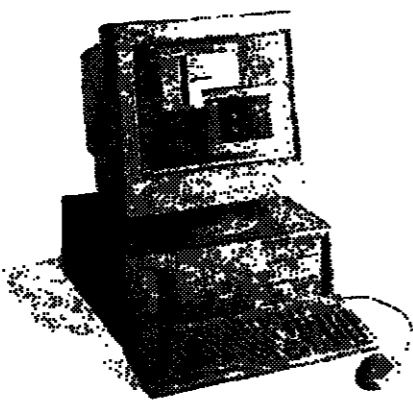
European Labour Party
Labour Party group, dominated by old Labour figures such as Lord Stoddart of Swinton and Sir Richard Bony.

NEW EUROPE

European Labour Party
Labour Party group, dominated by old Labour figures such as Lord Stoddart of Swinton and Sir Richard Bony.

European Labour Party
Labour Party group, dominated by old Labour figures such as Lord Stoddart of Swinton and Sir Richard Bony.

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هكذا من الأهل

Border row is putting Rock out of business

THE Spanish border guard amused his colleague with an animated joke, swapped cigarettes and slowly sipped his coffee as the line of vehicles waiting to leave Gibraltar stretched further than he could see.

At the front of the queue Edward Franks had been waiting five hours to cross the frontier into Spain. Usually this is a formality but the self-employed businessman said: "Spain appears to be at war with Gibraltar and nobody in Britain seems to have noticed."

When Mr Franks, 46, loses patience and asks the grinning guards to let him pass, they order his family out of the car. One guard takes out his pen-knife and jabs at the upholstery of the Franks' new Audi, looking for contraband and drugs. The other frisks Dany Franks, 7, who is forced to remove his jacket and put his hands in the air.

The search takes 20 minutes, during which the queue to leave the Rock grows still longer. Gibraltar officials weave between the cars encouraging drivers to complain and giving out the telephone numbers of the Spanish and British politicians whom they blame.

It began with a spat over fishing rights. Gibraltar's Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, thought that he had settled the problem with the Spanish

Families on both sides say their livelihoods are under threat, reports Daniel McGrory

fishing crews, but the Spanish Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, complained that this was his and Robin Cook's job. A little local difficulty then escalated into a revival of the conflict over the near 300-year British sovereignty of the Rock, and Spain made a point by tightening up its border controls.

Across the wire fence of no man's land, Gerry Monteverde, a complaints officer, makes an unladylike gesture to the diminutive Spanish Civil Guard causing the worst of the hold-up. "They want to starve us into submission and we feel bullied by Madrid and betrayed by London. They accuse everyone in Gibraltar of being drug dealers and tobacco smugglers. But all that happens on the Spanish side of the frontier, not ours," she says.

She points to a group of women in wearing baggy tracksuits, who are busy hiding cartons of cigarettes inside their clothing until they look

like the Michelin man. They waddle through the customs post, waved on by a Spanish guard, to the town of La Linea just 20 yards away.

There a man with slicked-back hair and wraparound sunglasses sits on a wall behind the customs shed, buying as many cartons of cigarettes as the women can carry. He offers bribes of pesetas to a coachload of elderly Britons to join his smuggling run. Several stroll back across to the border kiosk where a packet of 20 costs less than 80p. Three minutes walk away, in Spain, it sells for more than £1.

Ms Monteverde says: "The Spanish guards ignore such flagrant smuggling and instead delay law-abiding workers and tourists on their Government's orders."

The procession of cigarette women continues night and day. More than 1,000 families in La Linea are said to rely on this cigarette smuggling for their only income.

Three thousand people from La Linea legally work on the Rock and are protesting to their own Government that the border restrictions threaten their livelihood. Francisco Manueles, a computer engineer, says he missed three appointments because of the delays. "My Government is costing me money, and my Gibraltar customers will use someone on the Rock if this goes on."



A wait of four hours is common at the border, where Spanish guards conduct exhaustive checks on all travellers

Thirty people a week from La Linea are said to be losing their jobs in Gibraltar and many are having pay docked for arriving late. They are planning a demonstration on Wednesday which could bring the border to a standstill.

The Rock is suffering, too. Shops are deserted, offices close early and the 147 bars packed onto the 2½ square miles complain that daytrippers are staying away in their thousands. Fuming in the front-

ier traffic jam, Alfred Duo, 72, can take no more. "I was born here, but I'm leaving Gibraltar for good because of the bloody-mindedness of my Spanish neighbours, which is getting worse."

There is no shooting in this border skirmish, just obstructive pettiness. Drivers who do not carry a blanket in the boot in case of an accident, as required by Spanish law, may be turned back after waiting hours. Back in the traffic jam,

Ms Monteverde points to where the Gibraltar authorities installed cameras last week to broadcast the Spanish petulance live on the Internet.

Hours later the Spanish retaliated by stringing a 20ft sheet of green canvas between two trees to block the cameras. They plan a more permanent barrier made of aluminium.

"The Berlin Wall has gone but on this frontier of the new free Europe we will have the Aluminium Blockade," says

Charles Collinson, the chief complaints officer, as drivers ask the reason for the delay.

One enterprising tour guide tried to profit from the dispute yesterday. He went across the border to tempt tourists on the Costa to come to photograph the Rock's latest attraction — "stodgy Spanish cops causing Europe's worst traffic jam".

They were ferried back and forth on motorbikes to beat the queue that Gibraltarians fear is without end.

Minister urges Blair to get tough with Spain

By DANIEL MCGRORY

THE Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana, last night urged Tony Blair to "get tough" with Spain over the border blockade.

Mr Blair has arranged an Anglo-Spanish summit for April, but Mr Caruana said the Rock could not wait that long. "Tourism is already down to 20 per cent of what it should be. Who is going to come for a day trip from Spain when it can take seven hours to get across the border?"

"The integrity of our financial centre is being stirred by allegations that we are money launderers... the Foreign Office has applauded our stringent banking and financial laws, but this mud from Spain might stick."

The language on both sides of the border is far from diplomatic. Mr Caruana blames the Spanish Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, who he says is "a liar, a hypocrite and an economic illiterate."

"He says we are parasites who should be eliminated. Language like that hasn't been used in Europe since Nazi Germany."

The dispute concerns proposals sent to Whitehall by Señor Matutes in December 1997 for a new sovereignty deal.

"There was a threat implied from Señor Matutes that if we didn't accept what he thought were very generous sovereignty proposals, there would be an aggressive campaign to bring us to our knees," Mr Caruana said. "I don't lose a minute's sleep thinking Tony Blair is going to give away Gibraltar but perhaps Señor Matutes thinks differently, so the Prime Minister should spell it out: 'We stay British'."



Gibraltar officials set up cameras to broadcast the source of the obstruction on the internet, but the Spanish threw up a canvas screen. One business not affected by the dispute is the cross-border trade in cigarettes



NET LINKS

<http://frontier.gibraltar.gov> Website of the Gibraltar Frontier showing four-lane traffic and pedestrians queuing to get into Spain
<http://www.gibraltar.gov> The Gibraltar homepage with links to the Gibraltar Tourist Board, Finance Centre and Port
<http://www.self-determination.gi> The website of the Self-determination for Gibraltar Campaign

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Caught in the conservation net

Efforts to save spring salmon include a ban on coraclemen, writes Simon de Bruxelles

THERE is one species more endangered than the occasional spring salmon that makes a daring foray up the River Tywi in South Wales.

The coracle fishermen, who for generations have plied the river in their tiny cockle-shell boats, are the unintended victims of well-meaning but probably futile attempts to save the salmon. Just a dozen of the fishermen — largely nocturnal creatures — are left on the Tywi, compared with more than 300 at the turn of the century. Their main catch is the plentiful sea trout, but as their nets could also entangle the early salmon they have been caught in a nationwide ban.

The fishing season will start today, but no one knows how long it will last. The Environment Agency wants to stop salmon fishing until June 1 to give stocks time to recover. As soon as Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, signs the new bylaws, the coracle men will have to hang up their nets. With their season cut to two months and no hope of recouping the cost of their £400 annual fishing licence, a 2,000-year-old way of life will end.

Last week, Mike Elias, the leader of Wales's last 25 licensed coracle fishermen, carried his tiny boat down to the Tywi for what he fears may be one of the last times. Mr Elias, 48, has been fishing the river since he was 12, as the men in his family have done for generations. By day he is an electrician, but every night during the season he is on the river. Anglers don't like the coraclemen because they fish commercially, and the Environment Agency regards them as an economically irrelevant anachronism. Mr Elias's contention that the tradition is a part of Welsh heritage that should be preserved fell on unsympathetic ears — the agency says that as the coraclemen fish at night there is little chance of tourists seeing them.

The agency also objects to the fibreglass coracles favoured by some fishermen since a dam was built on the Tywi near Llandovery in 1968, lowering the level of the river and making it easier to run aground, and it says that their economic benefit to the region is insignificant. The agency does concede that there are very few early-run salmon in the Tywi — Mr Elias says that five salmon last year, all of them summer fish.

The chain through which the ancient skills are handed down from one generation to the next is already being broken. Peter Hopkins has refused all entreaties from his 15-year-old son, Christopher, to teach him how to fish. "I was born on the quayside



Mike Elias carrying his coracle along the River Tywi in South Wales. "This is the first year since records began in the 1700s that there won't be an Elias on the river," he said.

in Carmarthen with my finger in the river," he said. "The Tywi runs through my blood. I don't want this to get into my son like it has got into me and then to have it taken away from him."

The agency issues just 12 licences for the Tywi, 12 for the Teifi and one for the Taf. Most of the coraclemen have day jobs and fish at night for catches that, if they are lucky, will just cover their expenses. "I work during the day in order to be able to fish. No one could make a living out of it any more," Mr Elias said. "I remember when I used to go out with the old man and we would carry home 50 pounds of fish. Today you are doing very well if you catch ten pounds."

The coraclemen work in pairs, drifting downriver with their net strung out between them. At the end of each run they carry their coracles and their catch back to their starting point and begin again. It is not unusual for them to walk 20 miles in a night with the lightweight boats strapped to their backs. Mr Elias never wears a lifejacket, despite the fact that his coracle is no bigger than a bathtub and made only of pitch-covered calico and split hazel. He can't swim, but years of experience have given him perfect balance. "That's the way it's always been in my family. The old-men used to tie the young ones to the seat of the coracle with a couple of feet of rope so if it turned over they knew where to find them," he said.

What particularly galls the fishermen is that the National Rivers Authority, the Environment Agency's predecessor, was partly responsible for the dam that played a major part in the Tywi salmon's decline. The efforts of fish that manage to pass the dam and reach their spawning ground are wasted because runoff from conifer plantations has made the water too acidic for the fry to survive.

Last week's practice paddle could be the closest that Mr Elias gets to the river this season as he missed the January 1 licence application deadline.

"It is bureaucracy at its best," he said. "This is the first year since records began in the 1700s that there won't be an Elias on the river — and probably for long before that."

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Letting fish off the hook puts hoteliers in fear

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

HOTELS renowned for salmon fishing are bracing themselves for "substantial losses" this season with the arrival of rules requiring anglers to throw fish back.

The Environment Agency is proposing bylaws on English and Welsh rivers to conserve stock by banning live bait and making it mandatory to throw back fish migrating to spawning grounds until June 16.

As the season started today on some of the great salmon rivers, such as the Torridge and Tor in Devon, the proposals were awaiting the attention of ministers, who are expected to confirm them soon.

Hoteliers on prime fishing rivers claim that the rules, which rob anglers of the thrill of hooking and eating a prized fish, will cause many regulars to forsake Britain for salmon-fishing holidays

abroad. Countries such as Chile, Argentina and Norway are being heavily promoted as alternatives.

Up to 100 hotels and their staff are likely to be affected by the bylaws. Philippa Hughes, who runs the Holme Chase Hotel on Dartmoor, said yesterday that the proposals were already putting fishermen off. "About 30 per cent of our business is during the fishing season, from May through to August," she said. At weekends, eight or nine of the hotel's 17 bedrooms would be occupied by anglers.

The indications are that this could be halved, Mrs Hughes said. Losses could amount to "tens of thousands of pounds".

Charles Inniss, who owns the Half Moon Inn at Sheepwash, Devon, and tea miles of the Torridge, said that the

plans were a catastrophe. "My season starts on March 1 and bookings are way, way down."

Mr Inniss, who is chairman of the local fisheries association, the Tor-Torridge Joint Consultative Committee, said that what angered it was the blanket way in which the Environment Agency had drawn up rules for all rivers irrespective of their different seasons and runs of fish. "We estimate they are taking away 60 per cent of our catch."

He said there were voluntary conservation rules on the Torridge, including a maximum catch of two fish per angler for part of the season.

Guy Mawle, fisheries officer at the Environment Agency, said that the proposals were confidential. Ministers could back them, reject them or call for a public inquiry.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Income not the figure that counts

Two thirds of the women who have breast enlargement or reduction, at a cost of up to £5,000, earn less than £25,000 a year, according to a survey by a cosmetic surgery group. The Harley Medical Group said: "Cosmetic surgery is not these days for the frivolously rich and lavishly vain." The women wanted to look more "statistically normal" and to have figures that were in proportion, so that it was easier for them to find clothes in high-street stores that fitted. Most took some years to decide whether to have surgery.

School drug trip

Berkshire schoolchildren are to visit cannabis cafes in Amsterdam's red-light district as part of an education project to prevent drug abuse. The scheme, organised by Thames Valley Police, has angered some parents and teachers.

Oasis on Mars

Evidence of the whereabouts of water-bearing minerals on Mars has been found by astronomers using the Hubble space telescope. Regions containing rusted iron minerals such as haematite have also been located.

Victim named

A teenager whose body was found by a policeman in Northampton on Saturday has been named as Andrew Boyce, 18. Police disclosed that he had been beaten to death in his bed-sit, and his body dragged out and dumped on waste ground.

Tubby triumph

The BBC has commissioned 105 more episodes of *Teletubbies*. Filming by Ragdoll Productions will begin in the spring at the company's outdoor set in Warwickshire for programmes that will be broadcast over three years.

Toad safety

A road in the Nottinghamshire village of Oxtun will be closed for a month from today to let thousands of common toads cross safely from hibernation sites to breeding ponds. A third of the toads have been killed in previous years.

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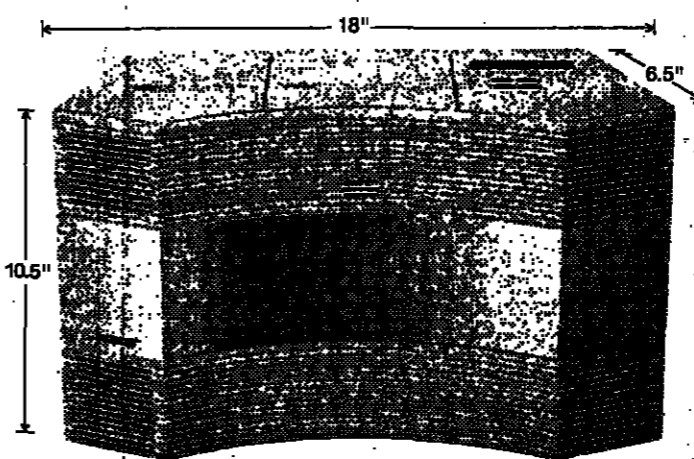
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Israelis hit back as top general in Lebanon killed

FROM NICHOLAS BLANFORD IN BEIRUT

ISRAELI warplanes last night bombed Hezbollah militia positions at Baalbek in eastern Lebanon after Israel's senior commander in south Lebanon was killed along with three others by a roadside bomb near the village of Kawkaba in the border zone occupied by the Jewish state.

Hezbollah guerrillas as well as Lebanese and Syrian troops retaliated with anti-aircraft fire, reports said. Israel was also bombed from Lebanon by either rockets or mortars, military officials said.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, fighting an election battle dominated by security issues, ordered the attack in retaliation for the death of Brigadier-General Erez Gerstein.

General Gerstein, 38, was the most senior Israeli officer to be killed in Lebanon since

the 1982 invasion. His death, coming less than a week after three officers from an elite Israeli commando unit were killed in a Hezbollah ambush, has added to the climate of uncertainty in Lebanon during the period preceding the elections in May. Seven Israelis have been killed in the occupation zone this year. Last year, 24 Israeli soldiers died and 100 were wounded.

Hezbollah, the Shia Muslim group which spearheads efforts to oust the Israeli Army from the occupation zone, claimed responsibility for the latest ambush. "This operation confirms our determination to continue our struggle until we have liberated our land," Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, said.

General Gerstein, two other soldiers and an Israeli journal-

ist were killed when their convoy was targeted by the bomb ten miles north of the frontier with Israel. The general's car was destroyed.

Just 25 minutes later, Hezbollah guerrillas detonated a second bomb along the same stretch of road as an Israeli military vehicle passed. The occupants were reported unhurt.

General Gerstein's death was greeted by jubilation among the Lebanese, but it renewed fears that Mr Netanyahu will repeat the actions of his predecessor, Shimon Peres, by unleashing a military offensive against Hezbollah to garner votes from the security-conscious Israeli public.

In the run-up to the 1996 elections, Mr Peres launched the 16-day Grapes of Wrath air and artillery offensive in which 170 Lebanese civilians were killed.



Binyamin Netanyahu on his arrival at Jordan's Royal Palace in Amman yesterday

Netanyahu anger Jordan with 'ally of Saddam' claim

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday struggled to defuse a serious crisis in relations with Jordan provoked by a speech in which he suggested that the Hashemite kingdom could again ally itself with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Mr Netanyahu's claim cast a shadow over his Amman talks yesterday with Jordan's new ruler, King Abdullah II — the first between the two since they spoke briefly at King Hussein's funeral. As Israeli officials mounted a damage control exercise after the speech provoked a furore in Jordan and among his political rivals in Israel, Mr Netanyahu tried to dismiss the dispute as a "storm in a teacup".

Hard-pressed Israeli diplomats denied that the King's refusal to appear at a joint press conference with the Israeli leader was a snub. One Israeli official said that yesterday's appearance of Mr Netanyahu with Faysal Tarawneh, the Jordanian Prime Minister, was "a matter purely of protocol and the fact that the King

is still in the 40-day official mourning period".

Jordanian anger was reflected by the *Jordan Times*, which called Mr Netanyahu's remarks a "gross misrepresentation of historical fact, demonstrating once again Netanyahu's complete lack of political sophistication". The daily paper, one of Amman's most moderate in its approach to the controversial 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty, accused him of "an inexcusable lack of consideration" towards Jordan's mourning.

In the speech Mr Netanyahu reminded an Israeli university audience that the late King had sided with Iraq during the 1990 Gulf crisis and the war to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait launched in 1991.

Days earlier the new King had met the expected future ruler of Syria, Bashar Assad, the son of President Assad, and a leading Jordanian opposition member, Leith Shubilat, had met Saddam. Both contacts were seen as ominous by Western diplomats.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Italian 'prejudice' outrages lecturers

Rome: More than 1,000 British and other foreign lecturers who teach at Italian universities will today present European socialist leaders with evidence that Italy is "breaking European Union law" by discriminating against them "on grounds of nationality" (Richard Owen writes).

The lecturers are staging a two-day strike to coincide with a conference in Milan to co-ordinate campaign plans for the forthcoming European parliamentary elections. Those at the meeting will include Tony Blair, Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister.

Iraq says raid killed 3

Baghdad: Three Iraqis, including a child, were killed and several others were injured in US air raids on villages in the northern no-fly zone, an Iraqi military spokesman said. The US said in a statement earlier from Incirlik air base in Turkey that F15E fighter jets launched three air-to-ground missiles and dropped three laser-guided bombs on an Iraqi air defence headquarters and radio relay site in the zone. (AFP)

Lusaka hit by blasts

Johannesburg: Zambia deployed police and troops in Lusaka after six bombs exploded in and around the capital. A guard was killed by the blast at the Angolan Embassy. Bombs also exploded at the American International School and the headquarters of the electricity suppliers. "We are treating this as a security crisis," Vincent Malambo, Legal Affairs Minister, said. (Reuters)

Yeltsin back in hospital

Moscow: President Yeltsin was taken to hospital over the weekend in what has become a routine occurrence (Anna Blundy writes). The ulcer that first incapacitated him in January is still bleeding, apparently because of too much activity by the President, and his doctor has recommended hospital observation and a decrease in Mr Yeltsin's already much-depleted workload.

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Noor: beat up Anwar "under provocation"

Chief of police admits assault

By DAVID WATTS

MALAYSIA'S former police chief admitted through his lawyer at the inquiry yesterday into Anwar Ibrahim's injuries that he had beaten up the former Deputy Prime Minister.

The inquiry was told that Abdul Rahim Noor had "lost his cool" after Mr Anwar accused him of being the "father of all dogs" and attacked him. The admission of the assault is another blow to the reputation of the Mahathir Government and its officers, and Mr Anwar's accusation of a conspiracy against him is gaining credibility among more and more Malaysians.

Teh Poh Teik, Mr Noor's lawyer, said the former police chief had acted under great provocation. However, Mr Anwar denied giving any insult and said there had been no conversation between himself and the two officers who came to his cell after he was detained last September 20.

He was speaking at an inquiry into allegations that he was beaten up after his arrest on charges of corruption and illegal sexual acts. The inquiry is being held separately from his trial on these charges.

Unusually, the hearing was held on a Sunday after the trial judge refused to adjourn hearings so that he might attend the inquiry.

Nigeria poll rigged, claims loser

Observers say Obasanjo victory should stand despite cheating. Sam Kiley reports from Lagos

NIGERIA'S fragile transition from dictatorship to democracy was in jeopardy yesterday after Olufemi Falae refused to accept the victory of his opponent for the presidency, General Olusegun Obasanjo, amid widespread allegation of vote rigging.

Senior members of Mr Falae's All People's Party (APP) stormed out of the electoral commission offices and refused to continue participation in the counting process.

The 1993 elections, which were won by Chief Moshod Abiola, were annulled by the then military leader, General Ibrahim Babangida who used

squabbling between politicians as an excuse to stay in office himself. Results from 31 of the 36 states yesterday showed a lead for General Obasanjo of more than five million votes.

"I said if General Obasanjo won a free and fair election I would congratulate him but clearly this is not a free and fair election," Mr Falae said in his home town of Akure.

"The vote was completely

rigged," one of Mr Falae's aides said. "We have not had free and fair elections and Falae will contest this."

True to form, many Nigerians could not resist the temptation to rig their own elections. Jimmy Carter, the former US President, and many other international observers across the country reported widespread irregularities.

However, European Union

monitors said the results were in line with the will of the Nigerian people, despite widespread fraud.

"We judge that the result of the election reflects the wishes of the Nigerian people, marking the final and most important electoral stage in the transfer of power to a democratically elected civilian government," the EU monitors said in a statement.

However, the level of cheating appeared to be equally balanced between General Obasanjo's supporters and those of Mr Falae.

International approval for the elections is essential to Ni-

geria which had been economically crippled by 28 years of corrupt military rule out of the 38 since independence from Britain.

Mainly Western donors have prepared a \$15 billion (£900 million) rescue package for the world's sixth-largest oil producer which is unable to refine enough of its high-grade crude for domestic use because the military has deliberately run down refineries and profited from imported products.

Fuel queues lasting for days choke Lagos, Nigeria's largest city. In Abuja, the newly-built inland capital, senior civil serv-

ants have to buy their petrol on the black market.

General Obasanjo has pledged to "make Nigeria great again" but he faces a Herculean task in ridding the country of corruption and attracting new investment.

General Obasanjo, 61, a Baptist, did best in the north of the country where the mainly Muslim Hausa-Fulani tribes have traditionally feared a power shift to the South, the general's Yoruba heartland, where he polled the least votes.

Mr Falae is also a Yoruba. The choice of both men as contestants for Nigeria's ultimate political prize was re-

garded as a means to reduce tensions between the north and south.

The general has two months to form a Cabinet before being sworn in by the outgoing military leader, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, on May 29.

He said that his priorities would be to stamp out corruption and bring economic growth to Nigeria. But Nigerians have heard it all before. Picking through rubbish in Lagos, Ben Oluwolake, a beggar, shrugged his shoulders.

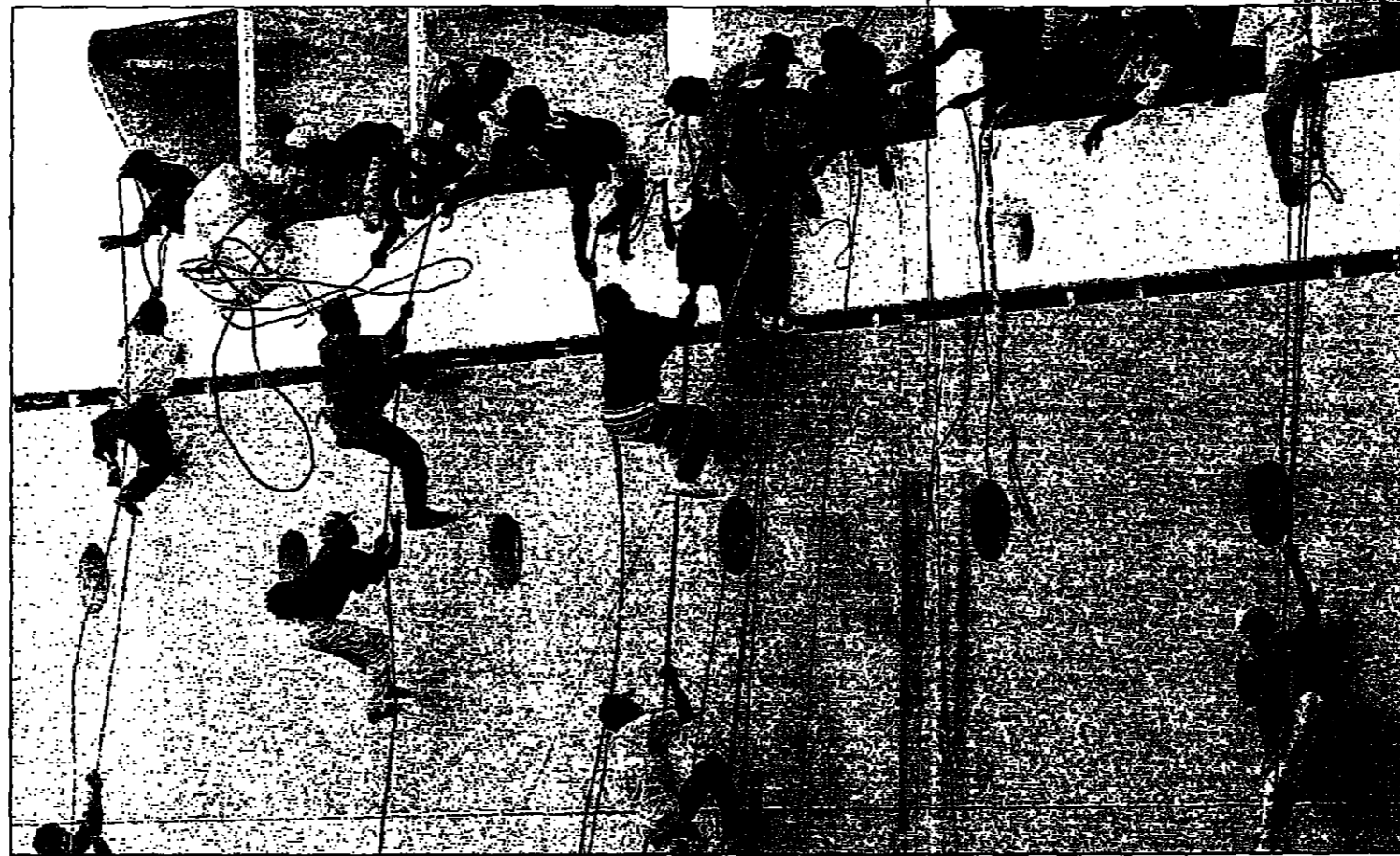
"What will democracy ever mean to me? I am nothing, we Nigerians are nothing to our leaders," he said.



Refugees flee Indonesia island riots

Ambo: Some 1,300 people fled this riot-torn Indonesian city yesterday amid mounting tensions following the explosion of a homemade bomb late on Saturday.

A local journalist said there were no immediate reports of casualties



Refugees in Ambon scramble on to a Jakarta-bound vessel while, above left, Indonesian soldiers help a baby to board the ship

in Saturday night's bomb explosion at the town of Ahura. "Many houses, churches and mosques were burnt but we cannot confirm the numbers yet," he said.

Homemade explosives have been used frequently in recent clashes be-

tween Muslims and Christians in Indonesia's eastern spice islands. More than 160 people died in savage rioting in January and another flare-up has killed at least 24 in the past week.

Meanwhile, people jammed Am-

bon's port in an attempt to flee the city, which is 1,440 miles east of the capital. "There are about 1,300 people at Ambo's port rushing to board a ship heading for Jakarta," said a witness.

"I am scared of being killed. I am

also worried for my family's safety," one man said.

Indonesia has been racked by waves of ethnic and religious unrest over the past year, fuelled by the country's worst economic crisis in 30 years. (Reuters)

Australia trims its fighting forces

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

THE Australian Army is turning out tubby troops who it says are too fat to fight. Under a policy to weed out weaklings, almost 700 officers and other ranks — some of them women — are packing their kitbags for civvy street.

They failed to meet the army's requirement that they must be able to run 1.5 miles in less than 12 minutes, pass a shooting test every year, be ready to travel overseas within 30 days and be medically fit with a good set of teeth.

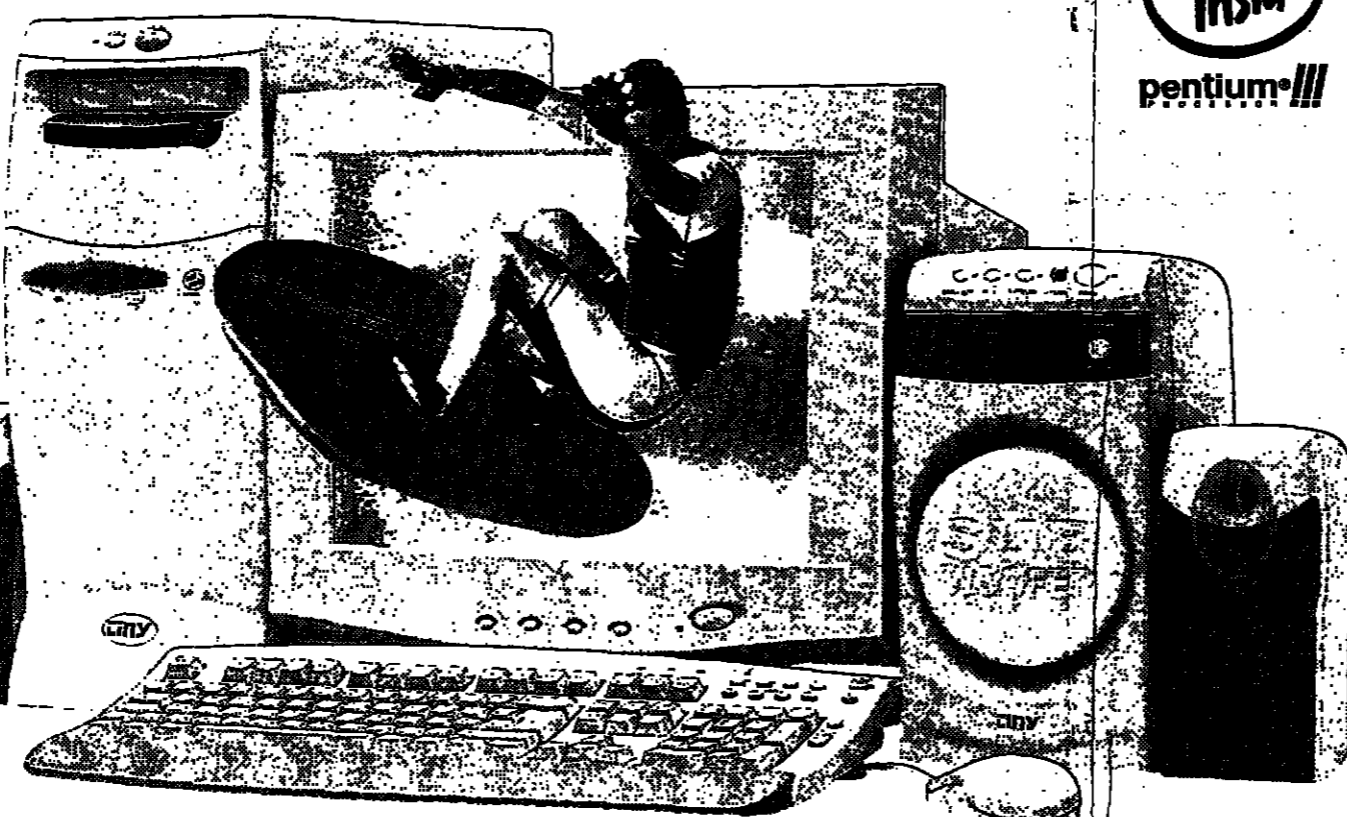
In the first year of the new rules, five officers and 42 soldiers were shown the door. Another 40 officers, including five senior lieutenant-colonels and 607 other ranks, have been given notice of discharge.

The revelation comes in the week Australia lost one of the few remaining legendary diggers who created the army's reputation at Gallipoli, a reputation for toughness reinforced in Vietnam but which appears to have slipped despite involvement in more post-Second World War conflicts than Britain.

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Ethiopia claims victory in border dispute

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council called at the weekend for an immediate halt to the fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea amid fears that the newly landlocked Ethiopians would try to reclaim Red Sea ports ceded to their smaller neighbour when it gained independence in 1993.

The Ethiopian Government declared "total victory" yesterday in the eight-month border conflict, after its troops recaptured the disputed 120-square-mile Badme plain. Eritrea said, however, that there was a fresh Ethiopian assault along the 60-mile front and UN officials expressed concern that Ethiopia might try to press on to the coast.

The rulers of the two countries were long-time allies in the civil war against the Ethiopian dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, whom they ousted in 1991. When Eritrea gained independence two years later, the two states were hailed as leaders of an "African Renaissance". A bitter rivalry developed, however, when Eritrea established its own currency, the nakfa, in 1997 to replace the Ethiopian birr.

The deterioration in relations meant that Ethiopia was no longer able to trade through its former ports of Massawa and Assab, rendering it dependent on neighbouring Djibouti for access to the Red Sea. A full-scale war broke out last May when Eritrea seized Badme, an area on the border which was populated by ethnic Eritreans but under Ethiopian administration and was not demarcated.

Shuttle diplomacy by envoys from the United States and the UN failed to defuse the conflict, as Eritrea rejected a peace plan put forward by the Organisation of African Unity calling for its withdrawal. Ethiopia's crushing victory on Friday prompted Eritrea to reverse course and hurriedly accept the OAU plan in what diplomats took as a sign that the Eritrean Government feared that Ethiopia would seize more land.

Albright talks tough as China relations sour

BY JAMES PRINGLE AND IAN BRODIE

WITH tensions mounting in Sino-American relations, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and her Chinese hosts will engage in tough talking today, setting the scene for next month's first official visit to Washington of Zhu Rongji, China's Prime Minister.

Fresh from her failure to push through a Kosovo agreement, Ms Albright acknowledged to a congressional committee, before leaving for two days in Beijing where she arrived last night, that "sharp differences" have emerged with China since the high water mark of President Clinton's visit eight months ago. Indeed, that deteriorating relationship was considered a prime reason why Mr Clinton has been unable to find a high-profile replacement Ambassador for Beijing when James Sasser leaves in May.

"Let me stress," said Ms Albright, in defence of Washington policy, "that in our deal-

ings with China, engagement is not endorsement". There is supposed to be a "strategic partnership" between the two nations, but this fuzzy phrase cannot disguise the triple blow that Washington delivered to China last week.

First there was the decision to deny the sale of a US-made satellite to China for a mobile phone network that, according to the Pentagon, would also have helped the Chinese to make their intercontinental missiles more accurate. The second was a Pentagon report on China's missile build-up opposite Taiwan, and the third, a stiff rebuke to China over its human rights record.

The State Department's annual report — which angered the Chinese — described crackdowns against organised political opposition and accused China of extra-judicial killings, torture and maltreatment of prisoners, forced confessions and arbitrary arrests.

To make matters worse, the crackdown on dissidents continued in the run-up to the Albright visit, prompting the Senate to call on the Administration, with a 99-0 vote on Thursday, to promote an anti-China resolution at this month's United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva.

The resolution underlined that the Administration is under enormous domestic pressure not to pull its punches on China, despite concerns at the damage such criticism can do to other US interests such as trade and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Non-government Chinese experts in Washington suspect that Mr Clinton and Ms Albright have left relations with Beijing on auto-pilot between visits, unaware that they were swerving off-course. There seems scant understanding that the end of the Cold War has made the Chinese more distrustful of America, especially those in power who remember that Henry Kissinger and his successors co-opted them to gang up on the Soviet Union. Using this argument, Chinese leaders can advance the notion that they are Washington's targets now.

Other issues loom large, including America's \$57 billion trade deficit with Beijing; US plans to develop a missile defence system to protect its Asian allies; and Congressional allegations that China may have obtained access to US technology to improve missiles and nuclear weapons.



Ms Albright is met by Lu Xunmin, a Chinese official



The Rev Henry Lyons, flanked by his lawyers, listens to the guilty verdicts in his Florida fraud trial

Church leader fails to find a friend in Jesus

Ian Brodie in Washington on Baptist preacher found guilty of \$4 million fraud

THE leader of America's largest black religious organisation, who used to punctuate his sermons on sin with cries of "I'm doing some preaching now", walked from court without a word after being found guilty of swindles running to millions of dollars.

Henry Lyons, 57, faces up to eight years in prison but he refused to resign as president of National Baptist Convention USA. Rather, said a defence lawyer, he was going home to pray at his church in St Petersburg, Florida, where he is still pastor.

The guilty verdict by the all-white jury in Largo, Florida, ended a career of sex, flamboyance and deceit conducted under the cloak of God's name. Lyons was convicted of racketeering by helping himself to more than \$4 million (£2.5 million) from corporations wanting to sell cemetery plots, life insurance and credit cards to his national membership, which he claimed to be 8.5 million strong. In fact, said the prosecution, it was closer to one million.

Bernice Edwards, 42, his organisation's public relations director and his suspected mistress, was cleared of racketeering.

It was the alleged affair that led to Lyons being caught. His enraged wife Deborah set fire to a luxurious waterfront home that he had bought with Ms Edwards.

The episode prompted a police investigation that uncovered an extravagant spending spree by Lyons, including a timeshare flat in Nevada, several luxury cars, expensive furs and a dia-

mond ring "the size of a dime". He was alleged to have lavished gifts on several mistresses.

Meanwhile, Lyons was duping the companies seeking his membership list by sending them names from computerised telephone directories.

This scam led to letters being sent such non-Baptists as a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and a Catholic priest.

Lyons denied the charges throughout. Even as damning documentary evidence piled up, he and his lawyers constantly predicted that God would deliver him. When the jury retired to consider its verdict, Lyons and Ms Edwards, who denied having an affair with him, joined hands with others outside the court to sing: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".

A supporter, the Rev Charles Embery, led the group in prayer, asking God to help the jury come to the "right" verdict.

But after 12 hours of deliberation, the five women and one man said they found the evidence against Lyons compelling. And he still faces a federal trial on 54 counts of tax evasion, money laundering and extortion.

Voyeurs of the world braced for revelation of the full Monica

BY IAN BRODIE

THE week of the full Monica Lewinsky treatment opened yesterday with assorted leaks, including an admission that she ignored her mother's advice to end her affair with President Clinton.

A well-orchestrated media blitz on both sides of the Atlantic will see Ms

Lewinsky telling her side of the story on television, as well as the release of her book written with Andrew Morton, newspaper serialisations and more interviews. The first interview will be on Wednesday in America on ABC, when Ms Lewinsky will admit to Barbara Walters — and, the network hopes, an audience approaching Super-Bowl proportions — that her relationship with Mr Clinton was an emotional roller coaster and that she became depressed as it disintegrated.

She was extremely fragile by the time Kenneth Starr's prosecutors found her, Ms Walters told Newsweek, and they "pushed her over the top", making her feel desperate. Earlier, Ms Lewinsky's mother, Marcia

Lewis, had tried to persuade her to end the relationship. Ms Lewinsky admits that her stubbornness kept her from heeding the advice.

Ms Lewinsky says she believes that, at the start of the affair, Mr Clinton was genuinely remorseful. Now, she says, the man she sees on television is all politician, sorry only that he got caught. Ms Lewinsky ex-

plains how prosecutors came to know about the infamous cigar escapade. She had described the incident to friends who were then called before the Grand Jury, so by the time she made her appearance the jurors knew all the salacious details.

Ms Lewinsky found that, of all the things written about her, comments about her weight hurt her the most.

But she kept her sense of humour, repeating a joke about herself to Ms Walters that was considered too bawdy to broadcast.

Ms Lewinsky makes a public apology to the American people. Asked if she is still in love with the President, she says no, but there have been times when she feels "kind of warm" towards him.

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Rebels mark birth of Balkan conflict

FROM ANTHONY LOYD
IN LIKOSANE, KOSOVO

A COMMEMORATIVE service on a mud-slick plateau outside the village of Likosane yesterday marked the first anniversary of the Kosovo war's bloody birth.

About 3,000 ethnic Albanians gathered beside the graves of 25 of their number slain there a year ago. Except for the continuous buzzing of a Serb observation plane flying overhead and the tedious speeches of Kosovo Liberation Army commanders competing with the whine of feedback from a faulty speaker system, the scene was strangely silent; the crowd, familiar now with the depredations of conflict, was subdued and seemingly drained of emotion.

The skies on February 28 last year were the same blue, the ground the same snow-scattered mud of spring thaw. But war was then, so, as they went about their business that day nobody in Likosane, a farming community 25 miles north-west of Pristina, could have anticipated what was to befall them.

On the eastern side of the village, caught between fields and a track junction, grows a legendary oak tree. Two hundred years ago, according to the village elders, the shoots from six acorns entwined together as they grew.

As a sapling, the oak was protected from livestock by the villagers, who watched it grow over the years into six equal trunks from one root. The tree was known as the Six Brothers: the latest phase in the death of Yugoslavia — six republics previously linked by the brotherhood and unity of Tito-era communism — started beneath the Six Brothers. Last year, when the KLA was little more than a myth, a group of armed guerrillas drove past the oak. As they did so, Serb police hiding in a farmhouse sprung an ambush. One of the KLA men, Sabit Lladrovci, was hit. His companion, Rasim Keci, fired at a police vehicle with a machine-gun. Two policemen died. The war had started.



A British Challenger tank with the King's Royal Hussars arrives in Kivovac, in Macedonia, as part of the proposed Nato peacekeeping force

Kosovo peace recedes as Serbs mass on border

SERB forces massed in their thousands in and around Kosovo yesterday as the province was engulfed in new fighting that threatens to shatter the fragile peace process.

Western military advisers said there were now more troops in Kosovo than at any time last year, and feared that Belgrade might be about to partition the province.

Brian Donnelly, the British Ambassador to Belgrade, yesterday urged the Yugoslav Army and Serb police to rein in their forces.

Meeting Kosovo Liberation Army leaders at one of their central headquarters in the village of Ladravac, Mr Donnelly said he hoped Belgrade could control the thousands of security troops now deployed around the province in breach of the October ceasefire rules. The ethnic Albanians, he

Envoy calls for restraint as fears grow of plans to partition province, writes Tom Walker in Belgrade

had to be given the chance to understand the Contact Group peace proposal.

But as his Range Rover ploughed through the snow and mud of the Drenica region there were reports of hostage-taking, attacks on police stations and Yugoslav Army units taking up positions along the southern and northern borders of the province.

"I can confirm fighting and shooting," said Beatrice Lacoste, a spokeswoman for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe observer mission in Pristina, Kosovo's capital.

Mr Donnelly met two of the

Albanian delegates to the first peace conference at Rambouillet, Jakup Krasniqi, the KLA spokesman, and Ram Buja, the group's political adviser.

Mr Krasniqi said the "will of the people had to be expressed". Mr Donnelly told them that an Albanian signature at the next phase of talks, on March 15 at Evreux in Normandy, would increase pressure on Belgrade to come to an agreement.

But Western military advisers and international monitors fear that Kosovo will be beyond salvation by March 15, and that the Contact Group's hopes for Nato to come into a

"benign environment" are little more than a pipe dream.

"The planners are barking mad and I've told them so," said one of the most experienced advisers in the province. "The Yugoslav generals will have to light." He described the new Yugoslav Army hierarchy as being almost entirely obedient to President Milosevic's wishes.

On Saturday French monitors counted 71 shells landing near the village of Bukos, which has now been besieged by the Yugoslav Army for five days in what Belgrade has cynically called "a winter exercise".

The special interior ministry police units that will have to leave Kosovo altogether under the Contact Group plan were also poised for action last night, as they joined the Yugoslav army in chasing the KLA

and up to 3,000 new refugees south from the town of Kacnik, on the road south to Macedonia. Earlier the KLA had fired on the police station there, killing one officer and injuring four others.

The police were also preparing an offensive against KLA villages near the town of Oranovac, where two Serbs were kidnapped on Saturday. As British monitors persuaded the police to hold off their attack, two bodies were found dumped on the main road south of Oranovac. They were not thought to be those of the Serbs, whom the KLA hinted they were still holding.

Mr Donnelly warned that he suspected there "were still some quarters" in Belgrade where it was believed the KLA could be eliminated.

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Schröder's strategy fails the EU test

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Mountains, as we discovered last week, are dangerous. So too, are summits for untried politicians working with clumsy sherpas. Gerhard Schröder, in his first real test as a European leader, fumbled his way through a complicated brief at the informal EU summit last Friday and left people wondering whether he will ever quite gain the stature of Helmut Kohl.

The weekend reviews of the Chancellor's performance — in the German, British, French and Italian press — were poor, even if France and Spain were sometimes identified as the "real" problem. In Germany, the Chancellor's smiling appearance on prime-time talk and quiz shows was contrasted unfavourably with his uncertain touch with fellow European leaders.

I think that the Chancellor is being too harshly judged at home. It was never going to be easy to rule with the Greens, and his own Social Democrats have always been uneasy in power. Herr Schröder's skills, honed as Prime Minister of a Red-Green regional government in Lower Saxony, are tactical rather than strategic. He has led two great retreats in his first 100 days of government — edging away from Green plans to scrap nuclear waste recycling contracts, and showing himself responsive to public discontent about proposed changes to the nationality laws. Yet in both cases he managed to present his U-turns as a defeat for the Greens.

The Chancellor's technique, applied against his rival, Oskar Lafontaine, and the Green Environment Minister, Jürgen Trittmar, is to let troublesome Cabinet ministers over-extend themselves and then suddenly take a quick step backwards. Public outcry is directed at the errant politicians while the Chancellor, whose popularity ratings remain high, is seen as the man who listens to the people.

The medium-term strategy is to shed the Greens as a partner and lead a grand coalition, either with the debilitated and suitably grateful Christian Democrats, or with the tiny Free Democrats. Rehearsal time has begun — the Government is having to deal with both parties since it has just lost its overall majority in the upper house, the Bundesrat. Where, one might ask, is the meat in the sandwich? According to the official line, the theme of this Gov-

ernment is the war on unemployment. Cutting the number on the dole by half a million is the undeclared goal by the next election in 2002. The next governing term, preferably with a different partner, would be dedicated to the thorough-going modernisation of German society. There are still well over four million unemployed and little progress has been made since the general election last autumn. The Chancellor managed to bring employers and unions together last week for the first session of an "alliance for jobs". This demonstrated a Schröder strength — to bring warring sides together and act as a kind of anchor man.

The German leader took a similar approach to European policy and it was in this spirit that he chaired the summit high up in Petersberg overlooking the Rhine. After a day's hard slog on Agenda 2000, he understood at last that the tricks of domestic political management cannot be applied to the European Union.

It is still possible that some kind of European financing deal will be struck in Berlin at the end of this month. But the Chancellor needs to grasp some of the fundamentals. First, if Germany wants to play a leading role in Europe, it has to pay for it. Germany will always be the chief paymaster of Europe — that is the essence of its power; if it pays less (and makes a big issue out of paying less) its power will diminish accordingly. Second, it cannot have an open confrontation with France and win (at least off the battlefield).

Herr Kohl understood this and the primary task of his francophile sherpa, Joachim Bitterlich, was to find ways in which the French could privately surrender positions and yet not lose face. Herr Schröder's foreign policy adviser, Michael Steiner, has not yet mastered this technique.

New wave of skiers arrive as Tyrol mourns

FROM ROGER BOYES IN INNSBRUCK

CHURCH bells rang out the length and breadth of Austria yesterday as the country mourned the 38 victims of the worst Alpine avalanche for several decades. The coffins of the victims — the last, a 14-year-old German girl, was dug out of a wrecked cellar on Saturday — were lined up in the St Wilten monastery chapel outside Innsbruck.

Tears streaked the faces of relatives, many of whom survived the disaster as snow raced down the mountainside last week at speeds of up to

190 mph to engulf Galtür in the Tyrol. Others, such as the mother of two young boys killed in the avalanche, were too distraught to attend.

The service was attended by Viktor Klima, the Austrian Prime Minister, who declared yesterday a day of mourning. Manfred Stieglitz, the Prime Minister of Brandenburg who was representing the 21 German victims, and Swiss government officials.

Several hundred tourists nevertheless arrived in the Tyrol yesterday, anxious to make use of the deep snow and empty pistes. The authorities who had cleared many of the main approach roads in western Austria at the weekend denied that they had done so to encourage new tourists. Hoteliers, most of them heavily in debt, had been anxious that nobody would want to come to the Paznaun valley.

The village of Galtür was opened at the weekend for the first time in a week and the full scope of the damage could be studied by reporters.

"We are still under shock," said the local innkeeper Siegmund Wolfrum, sobbing quietly as he made a bonfire of destroyed timber.

But four-year-old Alexander Walter, who was found under the snow almost two hours after being hit by the avalanche in Valzur, was yesterday said to be playing with toy helicopters in his hospital bed, on his way to a complete recovery.



Relatives of victims at the Innsbruck service

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Surrey's own Oskar Schindler

In a quiet corner of Guildford lives Henk Huffener, an embarrassed hero who saved dozens of Jews from the Nazis. Interview by Grace Bradberry

Henk Huffener's house, off the Guildford-Dorking road, is not merely in the Surrey stockbroker belt — it is at its very buckle. He has lived here for 40 years, and although various artistic types have beaten a path to his door (his friends include sculptors, photographers and writers), no one in the village has taken much notice.

"If anything, people have ignored me," he says, in his clipped Dutch accent. "I'm foreign. I don't belong to the stockbrokers' club." And who would expect this 76-year-old man, with a wedge of grey hair sticking out beneath a bald pate, to have anything remarkable to say? But his neighbours have just received a jolt from the local papers. Huffener, it transpires, has a Past. "I don't want to go out any more. It's ridiculous," he says, waving a hand irritably.

You might surmise from this that he is one of those benign old men who turns out to be a former Nazi. In fact, he is that more remarkable character, a hidden hero. From 1941 to 1945, Huffener saved dozens, if not hundreds, of lives. He spied on German troop movements, helped to secure an escape route to Switzerland, evacuated a kibbutz and hid numerous families in safe houses, even finding a place for a girl with Down's syndrome. He was imprisoned in a slave labour camp, escaped, carried on.

Last month Huffener, a retired antiques dealer and qualified psychologist, travelled to the Israeli Embassy in London, accompanied by his wife Margaret and 50 friends and relatives. He became only the 13th British citizen to be honoured with Yad Vashem's "Righteous Among the Nations" award. He felt, he says, "virtual embarrassment" — the medal has joined his Dutch Resistance Cross, worn only twice, on a shelf in his cluttered basement.

His story begins in 1941, in an isolated house in a wood outside Biddhoe. This was the home of the Huffeners — father (an engineer), stepmother and seven children. They were a cultured, sociable family. "We were right in the sticks. That's important — no one overlooked us." When

Huffener's father began holding Resistance meetings at the house, there was no one to see. "My father was an incredibly kind, brave person. He never showed any anxiety at all."

The rest of his family seems to have inherited this temperament. Huffener's sister Ann looked after a safe house, about a mile from the family home, that was a crucial staging post on an escape route used to smuggle Allied pilots, diplomats and Jews, first to Switzerland, then to Spain. Huffener was involved in this work. His younger brother, Joep, made friends with a doctor who was transmitting messages to London, and Huffener provided the doctor with information about German troop movements. "I was 18 but I looked 14 and I'd chat to the soldiers. I'd be cheerful and gormless and say 'gosh, are you really going in that direction?'" The Germans eventually detected the doctor's aerial and stormed his house.

"They caught him red-handed; he was taken away and shot. That was the end of my spying," says Huffener. Despite its grim conclusion, this was to be only the first of Henk's Resistance exploits. A friend of his, Paul Koning — later a successful sculptor — introduced Huffener to Loekie Metz, a young Jewish woman who was staying at a German Zionist kibbutz near Loosdrecht. "In March 1942 a tip came that they had less than a month to fold up the kibbutz and get out. The Germans were very fond of the idea of 'way folk', as they were then called — young people going up country, hikers and bikers." So Huffener and others would go unnoticed as they cycled through the countryside, accompanied by one or two members of the kibbutz. It was an audacious and dangerous mission. On one occasion Huffener was stopped by German soldiers while escorting an obviously Jewish-looking girl who spoke no Dutch. He kissed her, explained to the Germans that they must be off or they would be in trouble with their parents, and got away with it.

The naivety of some of those he saved now seems extraordinary. Huffener visited the same girl's parents in a bleak Jewish district of Amsterdam. The father produced a black velvet cushion displaying a medal. "He said 'That is an Iron Cross First Class. I am exempted from deportation'. But I said 'Don't believe them.' His plea went unheeded. In all, 110,000 Jews registered with the Jewish Council and obeyed the instruction to move to the ghettos. Those who went into hiding needed constant support. "In Anne Frank's story you never hear about the people who sustained them," Huffener points out. He became one of those people, moving about the country, never giving his full name, establishing a false address and carrying false papers.

In 1943 he was arrested while making a trip to Arnhem, where some of the kibbutz residents were hidden in a warehouse. He was charged with minor offences — not having an appropriate travel document and not having registered for work or study — and was questioned at Gestapo headquarters. He sat in the cells for two months. "I got very nervous because I thought somebody would twig. My last scene of crime, the warehouse, was only 300 yards away."

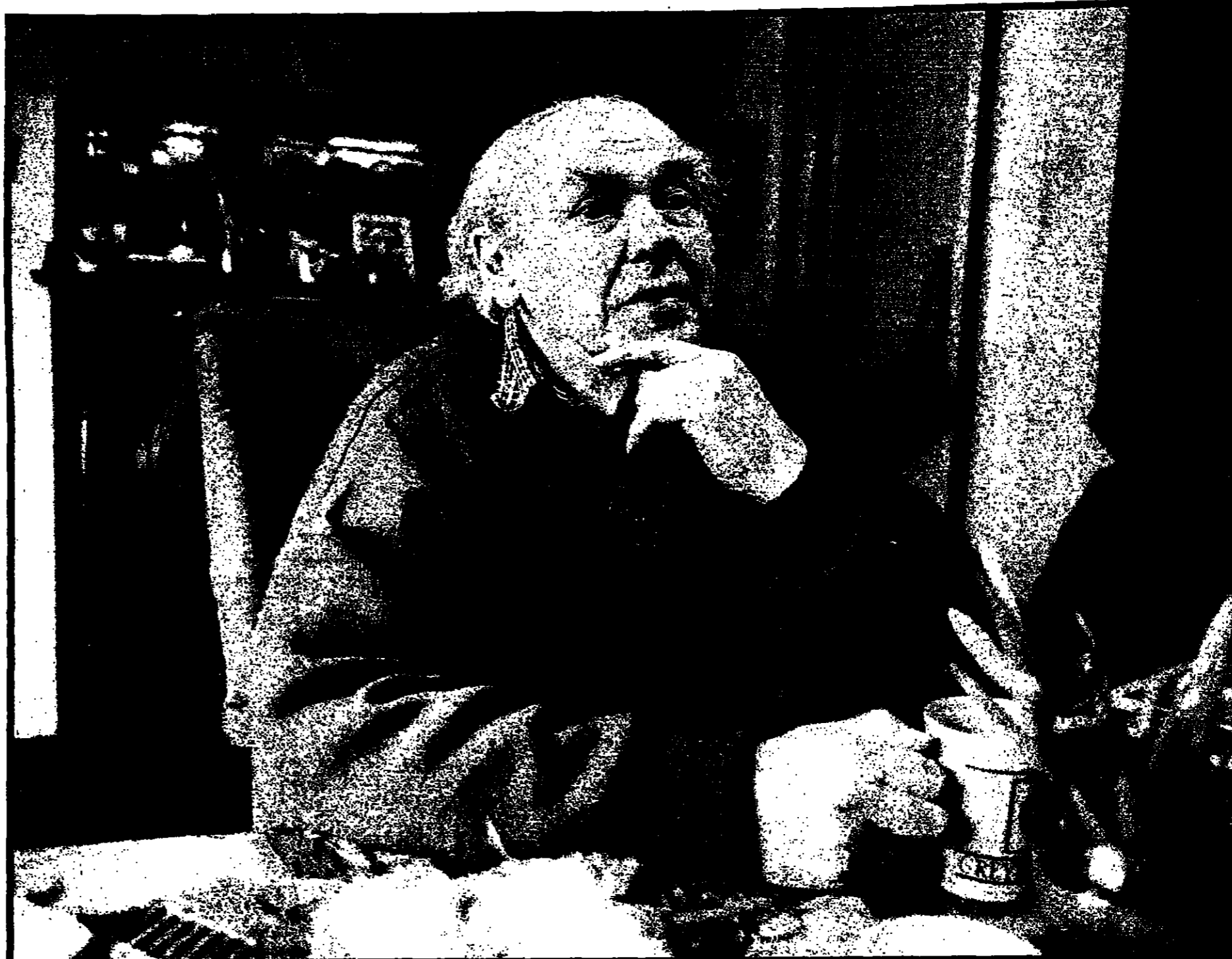
Finally he was sent to a slave labour camp in Germany, where he endured 16-hour shifts, inadequate food and poor sanitation. Through sheer resourcefulness, he talked his way first into a skilled job, then an office position, before wangling canteen lunches, wages and, ultimately, a leave permit.

He still has it — a piece of A5 paper, patterned like a driving licence, with the words "until further notice" audaciously typed by Huffener himself. There is a stamp from the local police station, where he endured a 20-minute wait before officials finally gave up trying to check his story.

He arrived back in Holland to discover that the SS had got hold of his name and had raided his father's home. He moved to Amsterdam and looked up a cousin whose husband was a land agent. Huffener was given access to empty properties and lived in one, hiding Jewish people in the others.

"I trotted around Amsterdam, very much a warned person, and every time I'm stopped by the police, I say 'I've got this pass. That paper saved my life right through to the end of the war.'"

Huffener's most extraordinary achievement, perhaps, was to save an entire extended family. Before his imprisonment, while he was still in Arnhem, a friend approached him about an old couple who owned a soft-furnishings company. They had two daughters, one with Down's syndrome. Through his sister Ann, Huffener found a psychiatrist who would look after the girl in an institution. He took her across Holland first on the



Henk Huffener: "I have not suppressed the grim things but I don't want to relate them all that much. I could not have survived if I had not had a frivolous mind"

medal. "He said 'That is an Iron Cross First Class. I am exempted from deportation'. But I said 'Don't believe them.' His plea went unheeded.

In all, 110,000 Jews registered with the Jewish Council and obeyed the instruction to move to the ghettos.

Those who went into hiding needed constant support. "In Anne Frank's story you never hear about the people who sustained them," Huffener points out. He became one of those people, moving about the country, never giving his full name, establishing a false address and carrying false papers.

In 1943 he was arrested while making a trip to Arnhem, where some of the kibbutz residents were hidden in a warehouse. He was charged with minor offences — not having an appropriate travel document and not having registered for work or study — and was questioned at Gestapo headquarters. He sat in the cells for two months. "I got very nervous because I thought somebody would twig. My last scene of crime, the warehouse, was only 300 yards away."

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Henk as a young man. Hendrik Henk Huffener



The Huffener family's isolated home near Biddhoe

train, then on the back of his bike. "We sailed up the drive, the girl screaming with joy because she'd never had a ride on the back of a bike before."

Next he had to look after the couple's other daughter, who had moved to Arnhem with her husband. "I was told 'They are in a flat where they are not meant to be. The son-in-law is sitting on the balcony with a bag and a newspaper, and the neighbours have seen. They have a four-month-old baby screaming at night. It's a matter of a week or two and they will drag him out.'"

He knew that he could hide the couple — but not with their baby.

Through his sister, he found a foster home for the child. "I went to this couple and said 'You can't stay here. I'm asking you to let the baby come with me.' It was a very fearful scene." Finally, they agreed.

In 1945 the family were reunited. "All three generations came back. Absolutely marvelous." The young couple moved to Israel and, although they sometimes visited England and knew Huffener's address, they never visited him. "I can't understand," he says. "I wasn't all that popular with them, having wrenched their child away. There was an aspect of embarrassment about it. What are you supposed to do? Say thanks? You don't do it for thanks."

So why did he do it? Why risk death to save strangers when so many others did not? "I had Jewish friends," he begins. "It's difficult to say. I'm probably a bit odd in that I love cultural diversity..."

He seems reluctant to acknowledge his courage. "I've not suppressed the grim things, but I don't want to relate them all that much. I couldn't have survived if I hadn't got a frivolous mind."

He drifts into another anecdote. He has just moved to Amsterdam and has not yet found the land agent cousin with the spare houses. Instead he is in a grim flat, on the edge of a ghetto, sheltering with an old Jewish couple who have decided that they want to die. "A great troop of Germans come over the wooden bridge and spread out over the street. They start shouting 'Everybody downstairs: with your bundles! We're on the second floor. Beneath us is a West Indian man playing his saxophone. They go up the stairs, smashing the door. He comes out in his pyjamas. They shout at the guy 'Juden, Juden.' He says 'I'm not a Jew.' They say 'No, we know, you're a nigger. He assures them that there is nobody upstairs and they turn and go downstairs.'"

So the old Jewish couple, I ask, did they decide they wanted to live after all? "No," says Huffener shortly. "They killed themselves that night with cyanide pills."

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£10,000 up to £20,000	6.00%	5.50%	5.50%	4.40%
£20,000 up to £40,000	6.25%	5.75%	5.75%	4.50%
£40,000 up to £200,000	6.50%	6.00%	6.00%	4.50%
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FROM 1/4/99 - min £12,000	6.95%	6.45%	6.45%	5.50%
TESSA FAREWELL				
120 DAYS' NOTICE - min £3,000	6.95%	6.45%	6.45%	
TESSA FAREWELL				
120 DAYS' NOTICE - min £3,000	6.95%	6.45%	6.45%	
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£5,000 up to £10,000	3.15%	2.85%	2.85%	2.12%
£10,000 up to £20,000	5.65%	5.15%	5.15%	4.12%
£20,000 up to £40,000	6.15%	5.65%	5.65%	4.32%
£40,000 up to £200,000	6.65%	6.15%	6.15%	4.82%
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£5,000 up to £10,000	2.50%	2.00%	2.00%	1.50%
£10,000 up to £20,000	3.00%	2.50%	2.50%	1.80%
£20,000 up to £150,000	3.80%	3.30%	3.30%	2.64%
BOUNTY SHARES				
min £500 up to £2,500	2.10%	1.80%	1.80%	1.27%
£2,500 up to £5,000	2.50%	2.00%	2.00%	1.59%
£5,000 up to £10,000	3.35%	2.85%	2.85%	2.32%
£10,000 up to £20,000	4.10%	3.60%	3.60%	2.86%
£20,000 up to £50,000	4.60%	4.10%	4.10%	3.29%
£50,000 up to £200,000	5.35%	4.85%	4.75%	3.83%
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REGULAR	up to £150,000	0.55%	0.55%	0.55%	0.44%
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	£10,000 up to £150,000	1.50%	1.20%	1.20%	0.96%
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	£2,500 up to £5,000	2.15%	1.85%	1.85%	1.32%
	£5,000 up to £10,000	2.65%	2.35%	2.35%	1.80%
	£10,000 up to £20,000	3.75%	3.25%	3.25%	2.60%
	£20,000 up to £200,000	4.20%	3.70%	3.70%	2.96%
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	£2,500 up to £5,000	2.25%	1.95%	1.95%	1.38%
	£5,000 up to £10,000	3.00%	2.50%	2.50%	1.98%
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	£20,000 up to £40,000	4.15%	3.65%	3.65%	3.02%
	£40,000 up to £200,000	4.65%	4.15%	4.15%	3.38%
HIGH YIELD	min £500 up to £2,500	1.70%	1.50%	1.40%	1.19%
	£2,500 up to £200,000	2.00%	1.75%	1.74%	1.35%
MAGNUM	min £500 up to £2,500	1.80%	1.60%	1.50%	1.27%
	£2,500 up to £5,000	2.10%	1.85%	1.75%	1.40%
	£5,000 up to £10,000	2.80%	2.40%	2.30%	1.98%
	£10,000 up to £20,000	3.50%	2.90%	2.80%	2.46%
	£20,000 up to £200,000	3.85%	3.30%	3.20%	2.82%
TROPHY	min £500 up to £2,500	2.15%	1.75%	1.74%	1.39%
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	£5,000 up to £10,000	2.75%	2.25%	2.24%	1.79%
	£10,000 up to £20,000	3.25%	2.85%	2.83%	2.26%
	£20,000 up to £40,000	4.05%	3.55%	3.52%	2.82%
	£40,000 up to £200,000	4.50%	4.00%	4.00%	3.40%
ONE YEAR SHARES	min £1,000 up to £2,500	3.85%	3.35%	3.35%	2.69%
	£2,500 up to £5,000	5.05%	4.55%	4.55%	3.69%
	£5,000 up to £10,000	5.80%	5.30%	5.30%	4.24%
	£10,000 up to £20,000	6.00%	5.50%	5.50%	4.40%
	£20,000 up to £200,000	6.20%	5.70%	5.70%	4.56%
TESSA ELITE	60 DAYS' NOTICE	5.50%	5.00%	5.00%	
MATURED TESSA	Balance under £1,000	1.25%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%
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	60 days and over	5.50%	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%
	60 days and over	5.50%	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%
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	£2,500 up to £5,000	2.50%	2.00%	2.00%	1.59%
	£5,000 up to £10,000	3.35%	2.85%	2.85%	2.32%
	£10,000 up to £20,000	4.10%	3.60%	3.60%	2.86%
	£20,000 up to £50,000	4.60%	4.10%	4.10%	3.29%
	£50,000 up to £200,000	5.35%	4.85%	4.75%	3.83%

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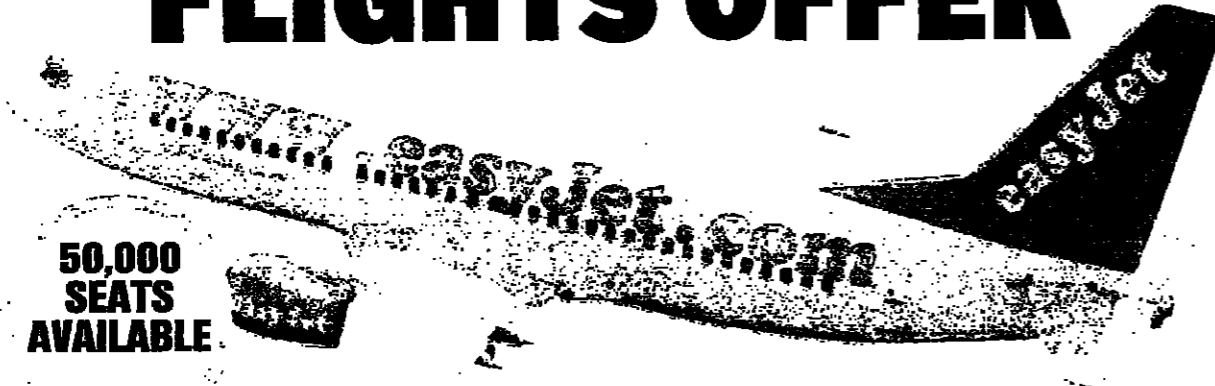
BURBERRY

Every five years or so, London Fashion Week is supposedly about to meet its Maker. But despite all the hand-wringing, the event is still very much alive. Photographs by Simon Walker

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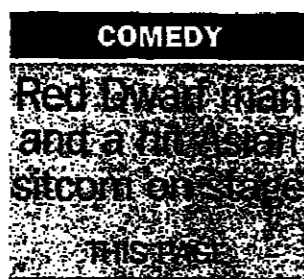
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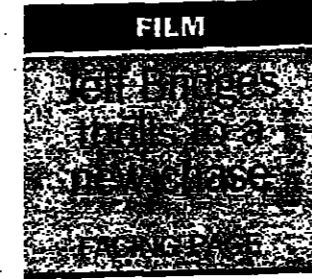
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COMEDY

Red Dwarf: man and a five-star sitcom on stage

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM



Imbecile firmly in charge

In recent years the tiny Gate has accomplished so much — from rediscovering Spanish plays of the Golden Age to introducing us to the German dramatist Marie-Luise Fleisser to giving spare, simple productions of Kenneth McLeish's stunningly bold translations of Euripides — that it has every reason to make a fuss of itself.

It may, if it likes, celebrate its 20th birthday with a season called *Idiot*, "devoted to the sensibly challenged". It may even declare in its publicity blurb that "imbeciles are very firmly in charge at the Gate". We know it is the theatre's jolly disingenuous way of preparing us for Cervantes's *Don Quixote* and the satirical East European plays that will follow.



THEATRE

There are, of course, many hilarious incidents in the original novel, and a few of these are included in Maria Mombland Ribas's production. Patrick Kealey's monotonously grave and earnest Quixote makes a barber's basin for the magic helmet of Mambino and snatches it from its stupefied owner. He confuses inns with castles, rips apart puppets who have offended his sense of chivalry, rescues a shepherd's boy from a deserved beating. Whether he tilts at windmills I cannot be sure, for the moment passed in a twinkling during which latecomers were distracting me. But little else is particularly ludicrous and nothing else is funny, so it hardly matters.

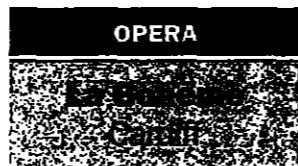
Nor is pace or clarity helped by the introduction of a narrator-guru in the form of Cide Hamete Benengali, whom Cervantes pretended was his story's inventor, and two female listener-commentators, both in modern togs and one with a half-penetrable accent. He gives them plonkingly obvious lectures about imagination, reality, reason and the other subjects the adapter wishes us to ponder — "nothing is what it seems, have you forgotten that already, my little budgeters?" — while they do little but take up space and time. Mehmet Ergen's earthy good-natured Sancho Panza emerges with some credit from the deconstructionist banalities on offer, but otherwise — imbecility is the *mot juste*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Mehmet Ergen and Patrick Kealey in the Gate's incoherent adaptation of the classic Cervantes tale of *Don Quixote*

Fresh and juicy



OPERA

PUCCINI's early masterpiece is now more than 100 years old but remains as miraculously fresh as its subject-matter. Young love, youthful ideals and shattered dreams motivate the plot, and not many productions capture this spirit as well as Göran Järvelid's 15-year-old staging for Welsh National Opera.

By the final act, the poverty is inescapable. The Bohemians' garret looks (in Michael Yeargan's designs) like a squat Marcello has had to compromise his ideals and is busy producing a still life that will be easy to sell. In these surroundings it is not surprising that Mimi's death seems even more painful than usual. It helps that all the principal

pals are young: this is not the strongest cast WNO has ever fielded in *La Bohème*, but they are an evenly-matched group of singing actors. It is less help that on the opening night they were often swamped by the orchestra under Graham Jackson. After a slightly scrappy start, Jackson settled down to conduct a performance full of theatrical life, but overdid the juice in what is already a very juicy score.

Alwyn Mellor gives perhaps the most fully rounded performance, singing with glowing tone and charting Mimi's decline poignantly. The Bohemians make a lively

quartet, but Gwyn Hughes Jones's Rodolfo stands out for his sweetly lyrical tone. Simon Thorpe's Marcello is more deeply characterised, an overgrown naughty boy at the start who is perhaps most affected by events, and he boasts a warm baritone. Dean Robinson's Colline and Matthew Hargreaves's Schaunard are not overshadowed, however, and the latter sings the best Italian. Gail Pearson's perky Musetta is dynamite in a small package, and her slender soprano rides the ensembles brightly.

JOHN ALLISON

Mixed in with Asian spice

COMEDY: *Goodness Gracious Me* is attracting a mainstream audience to the theatre. Clive Davis reports

There had been mutterings that the level of inspiration was starting to wobble by the end of the second television series of *Goodness Gracious Me*. So it is refreshing to report that the stage version, which is on tour until the middle of next month, scores one greatest hit after another.

In a glum week for news on the race front, it was also encouraging to see not just a full house but a decidedly mixed crowd. When GGM star Sanjeev Bhaskar performed an accomplished solo show at the South Bank just after Christmas, he played to an audience that was 99 per cent Asian. Here at the Reading Hexagon was proof, if it were needed, that he and his colleagues are mainstream talents too.

Bhaskar and Meera Syal have attracted most of the critical attention so far, partly for the very good reason that they contribute their own material. But this evening was very much a collective success. Kulvinder Ghir's clowning is put to superb use, particularly in a parody of an all-action, all-dancing movie hero. Nina Wadia makes a convincing transition from miniskirted Asian "fit-girl" to the indomitable Mrs Bedi, a matriarch who is never caught without an aubergine in her handbag. The whole enterprise fizzles with the self-confidence of a Westernised generation that has come of age.

British paternalism receives a ritual poke in the eye in Toby Longworth's cameo performance as a nostalgic colonial gent and a dim-witted back-packer. But Asian insularity

comes in for much more of a biding. Gurus are treated with jovial disrespect, and we are introduced to a new chain of restaurants, Planet Bollywood, that seats its customers according to skin tone.

Some of the skits looked underpowered on a stage as large as the Hexagon's. Anil Gupta's direction would benefit from a little tightening. But we do have the opportunity to relive the English restaurant sketch, an instant classic which depicts a table full of Bombay rowdies bullying a timid Caucasian waiter: "What's the blandest dish on your menu?"

Craig Charles's role in another offbeat BBC2 series, *Red Dwarf*, forms one of the selling points for his national tour. Not that there were many touches of the surreal in his performance at Oxford Brookes University — apart from the bizarre sight of him lowering his trousers to display a chic set of stockings and suspenders. His well-publicised spell in prison supplies the meatiest sequence in his routine. For all the cheeky Scouse swagger he brings to his tales from a darkened cell, there is no mistaking the fear and loathing underneath.

The rest, though, tends to fall into a predictable run through off-colour toilet and sex jokes. Even an account of a trip to Bill Gates's empire turns into an excuse to linger in the aeroplane's WC. A pity. At his best, when he allows his stream-of-consciousness indignation to bubble over into a poem, Charles conveys a real sense of individuality.

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Bizet
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June 2 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 18 | 23
25 | 28 | 30
July 2 at 2.00pm
May 8 | June 5 at 6.30pm

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The Carmelites
Poulenc
May 20 | 26 | 28
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Good guys don't win prizes

CINEMA: Jeff Bridges may be Hollywood's most underrated star but it has never bothered him, as Lesley O'Toole discovered

Fear and paranoia are themes which permeate Jeff Bridges' films, and his new one — *Arlington Road*, opening in Britain this month — is no exception. A psychological thriller about neighbours who are not all they seem, it is precisely the kind of movie Bridges likes to see. "I love it when the filmmaker is ahead of the viewer and there are so many twists that you don't know how something will turn out."

That, more than the role, proved the attraction here. That and his co-star, Tim Robbins, who, as the first star name attached to the project, had his pick of two equally interesting male lead roles. Bridges did not mind that whatever Robbins left was his own role. "Sometimes it's the other way round," he adds.

Bridges was also attracted by the film's "Hitchcockian feel" rather than its political subject-matter (American-based terrorism and its white militia perpetrators). "For me, the film is a fantasy on that level, though in Britain things must be very different. You have grown up with terrorism but even after something like the Oklahoma bombing, Americans still don't give the topic much credence. We prefer to live in a state of denial because we really don't want to think about these things."

Yet Bridges knows only too well that his on-screen paranoia in *Arlington Road* is both plausible and rooted in fact. On the film's set in Houston, Texas, last year, Bridges met many extras who had family and friends affiliated with white militia groups and he believes that a societal malaise persists in the country in spite of its buoyant economy. "I don't know that the state of the economy is entirely satisfying to everyone. Jobs are so low-paying that families still can't afford roofs over their head or the health cover they need."

Bridges, of course, has the luxury of being able to pick and choose his work. Clearly, his motivation is neither financial nor careerist. At 50, he is not only more handsome and versatile than Harrison Ford but seven years younger. Yet he has eschewed the conventional leading-man roles which could have placed him in the \$20-million-per-movie pantheon. Asked which specific film he passed on, Bridges responds with a slightly bemused: "I'm really not sure which films people mean when they say that, but I don't think I ever went down that movie star path. I always enjoy taking a 90-degree turn from the last thing I did."

The American film critic Pauline Kael once wrote that

Bridges "may be the most natural and least self-conscious screen actor that ever lived". He has his own thoughts on the reasons he is able to imbue every character with credibility. "Audiences bring information into the theatre about what they last saw an actor in. Because I've done so many different roles, it's easier for me to project a character on to the actor so when people see me on screen, they think, 'Maybe he's the bad guy, maybe not.'"

Though he enjoyed making *Arlington Road*, Bridges's experience was tinged with sadness when his father Lloyd Bridges died during the shoot. For years, Bridges doubted his merit as an actor, well aware of having a "foot in the door" because my Dad was who he was. Though he made his film debut at the age of nine months — "I didn't do a very good job, they couldn't get me to cry" — it was not until he had made perhaps ten movies as an adult that he decided acting was what he wanted to focus on.

His inauspicious film debut opposite Jane Greer was followed by a few parts on his father's television series, *Sea Hunt*. "He'd always say, 'Do you want to do this part? You'll be out of school for a couple of weeks.' And when you're eight years old, it's kind of fun."

A little further on, he questioned whether he was acting simply because his father did, but eventually realised that "they wouldn't hire me if I was no good. After that, the feeling started to go away."

Two Academy Award nominations by the age of 25 helped. At 22, he was nominated as Best Supporting Actor for his endearing guy-next-door in Peter Bogdanovich's *The Last Picture Show* and three years later for *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*. In the 1980s, Bridges enjoyed a spectacular run, winning Best Actor for his alien masquerading as human in *Starman*. He hit box-office success again the same year in *Against All Odds*, though the success of that film paled next to that of *Jagged Edge*.

But his early popularity with Academy members did not convert into the recognition he should have earned for a clutch of 1990s films — *The Fisher King*, *Fearless* and the low-budget *American Heart*, which he also produced. Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* film critic, calls him "the most underappreciated great actor of his generation", though she was not thinking of *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, starring and directed by Barbra Streisand and



Laid back: Jeff Bridges is unfazed by his lack of awards — "I'm constantly surprised that I am still surprised in this business"

featuring Bridges as her bemused suitor.

Unsurprisingly, given his huge résumé, Bridges cannot name a favourite film. "I have a bit of fondness for all of them. Sometimes I feel the end result, the movie, is almost a by-product of the real process, which is just being alive, finding out about yourself and your character and having relationships with the people you're working with."

Bridges documents each filming experience by photographing it extensively. Polymath brought "thousands" of his photos taken on the set of *Arlington Road* and printed a limited edition of 5,000 promotional books, with handwritten captions by Bridges. If anyone mounts an awards cam-

paign for the film, the book will make an excellent gift for the Golden Globe voters. (Oscar voters are not allowed to receive such promotional items.)

In fact, Bridges is so long overdue some awards that he probably fancied his chances when those Academy favourites, the Coen brothers, wrote a part for him in *The Big Lebowski*, their follow-up to *Fargo*. The film, though, generated none of the generation-transcending buzz of its predecessor. Was he surprised? "I was because it made me laugh and, for me, John Turturro's performance is unbelievable. But then I'm constantly surprised that I'm still surprised in this business. I admire the Coen brothers so much because they're so not

about the awards and the hoopla. They're totally low-key." So too is the very affable Bridges, who lives a singularly normal-sounding life in an idyllic beach town north of Los Angeles with his wife and three teenage daughters.

His life outside work consists mostly of "music and ceramics". Not only is he not worried about his own neighbours, he makes music with them. He also plays guitar and piano for the ensemble's "jazzy" stuff with some rock and some pop. When feeling in need of creative stimulus, he tackles a 12-week course prescribed by the book *The Artist's Way*. "Each day, the first thing you

do is write three pages of stream of consciousness. Mine normally starts off with something like 'I really, really, really don't feel like doing this'. You empty all this stuff out and then, all of a sudden, other things just come out."

Bridges emptied another load of "stuff" on his daughters before signing on for *The Big Lebowski*. "I was so conflicted because I was thinking, 'I'm going to play this dope-smoking guy. What about my girls? What kind of role model is that?' He sat them down and gave them a long speech. 'I was sweating. Finally, I ran out of words and they just looked at me and said, 'Dad, it's a movie.'"

● *Arlington Road* is released in Britain on March 19

Too tight for comfort

Beethoven is really rather early music for Nikolai Demidenko. The Russian pianist, who has collected awards for his recordings of Medner, Tchaikovsky and Scriabin, was likely to have very much his own way with Beethoven. And so it was when his *Pathétique* and *Tempest* Sonatas exploded on the Barbican Hall on Tuesday.

At the start of the *Pathétique*, the energy which is coiled into these severe opening chords, ready to break out in the impulsive rising figures which follow, seemed in Demidenko's hands compacted. Where Beethoven's strength and imagination seems constantly to be expanding, breaking its own bounds, Demidenko seemed to be compressing itself, rigorously scaling down. This generated its own idiosyncratic excitement. The outer movements fairly crackled with nervous tension,

setting into relief a central slow movement so thoughtfully phrased that its song was heard breathing anew. And there was to be no relaxation of tension. Demidenko's tall frame remained crouched over the keyboard, taut with anticipation.

For Beethoven's *Tempest* Sonata, he found a compellingly hushed and exploratory opening. As the fingers touched each rising note into being, it seemed as if anything could happen. And each time those quiet, self-communing phrases returned out of the hurly-burly, they grew more isolated, until finally they were conjured into song, as if from another, far distant frequency.

There was a palpable sense of physical relief as Demidenko turned to Liszt and was able to spread himself once more, stretching every sinew of his body and that of the piano itself.

The young Liszt certainly intended to test both performer and instrument in the *Etudes d'exécution transcendantale* d'après Paganini. Demidenko played two of them: *La chasse*, dapper and devilish in its rhythmic control, and *La Campanella*, in which he seemed to have not quite enough freedom to tease out the whimsy.

There was not much of a smile on his face, either, in the two operatic transcriptions which framed the *Etudes* and his powerfully shaped *Ballade No 2* in B minor. The *Waltz and Capriccio* on two themes from "Lucia di Lammermoor" was nicely deadpan in its virtuosity. But *Lisa's paraphrase* of *La Campanella* was, after all, quite the most outrageously successful PR package for Verdi's opera before Jonathan Miller's juke-box and Demidenko's frenzied performance made it just a little less fun.

HILARY FINCH

This week in THE TIMES



POP

Alanis Morissette flags her July UK tour with a surprise date at Shepherds Bush GIG: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



MUSIC

Master violinist Gidon Kremer plays Piazzolla's steamy tangos at the QEH CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE

At the Queens Rufus Sewell plays the Thane in Shakespeare's Scottish Play OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



FILM

Talk show queen-turned-film star Oprah Winfrey heads painted in *Beloved* RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The Royal Ballet's *Dance Bites* opens in Bath and Darlington tonight

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 532 0300 (5pm)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
TOMMY: 7.30 LA TRAVIATA
7.30 LA TRAVIATA
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SAUNDERS WELLS 0171 532 0300
Academy Concert
THE RETURN OF DON JUAN
starring Mark Padellaro
World Premiere
Tonight at 7.30pm

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Blair books his ticket to euroland

A danger to the Tories as the odds shorten on entry

Nothing is inevitable in politics. But there are probabilities — and British entry into the euro is now probable. Tony Blair has made entry a strategic aim of his Government. For all the careful wording of his Commons statement, he cast aside previous ambiguities that allowed some sceptic commentators to delude themselves that he was really on their side. The Government will now actively seek to achieve entry. Of course, like any shrewd politician, Mr Blair left himself a let-out clause by stressing the economic tests.

However, failure to join in the next Parliament would be a huge setback for his strategy of closer involvement in the European Union, and would force a reassessment of his whole foreign policy. This is leaving aside the possibility of defeat in a referendum, which could be fatal to his premiership, but he would not call one unless he was sure of winning.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* indicates that opinion has become less hostile to entry. The precise figures showing an even balance for and against might differ with a slightly altered question, but the trend is clear and is backed by other recent polls. More significant is that half the public is persuadable either way, depending on what it thinks would be best for the economy. So much for the myth of a firmly sceptic electorate. Moreover, over two thirds of the public regards entry as likely-inevitable.

A sizable minority of the public, now about a quarter, is strongly opposed to British participation.

That is, in effect, the position of the Tory leadership and is William Hague's



Peter Riddell

instinct 'a nation that has decided its own destiny for 1,000 years', rather than just ruling out entry for the next Parliament. However, such an absolute position may also be limiting the Tory potential for recovery. A recent MORI poll commissioned by John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, the former Tory MEPs and founders of the new Pro-European Conservative Party, showed that a pro group led by Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke might not only attract 13 per cent support (against 19 per cent for Mr Hague's party) but it could also win back Tory defectors from Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

The Stevens-Donnelly group may be no more than spoilers in this June's European elections, but their activity shows that Mr Hague cannot assume that a majority will rally to a 'save the pound' call. That may be true of a hard core, but any referendum will be decided by the much larger number whose vote will be swayed by their economic interests.

The Government's case is that Britain would be left behind outside the euro with people worse off and investment at risk. Joining will be presented as a logical step rather than a big leap. That means showing that the euro is successful and that Britain would fit into euroland.

years. But any longer and Britain will suffer a loss of business and investment. Moreover, the policies adopted by the euro II will have a direct impact on Britain, and we will have no influence on them outside the euro. Many Tories are content to accept such a detached position, and want Britain to renegotiate its relationship with the EU anyway. The Owen group wants Britain to be part of Europe, yet as Mr Blair has come to recognise, that is not consistent with being outside a successful single currency.

The debate will turn on these questions of economic advantage. The Tories are in danger of being seen not just as split, as they may be in the Euro elections, but also as detached from most of mainstream business. As Mr Blair remarked last Tuesday, there could even be 'the delicious irony of going into the next general election with the only fears on the financial markets being the prospect of a Tory election victory'.

There is still a big task of persuasion, and winning a referendum will not be easy, especially if the Tories recover strongly at the next election. But by at last taking a lead, Mr Blair has started to shift the odds in favour of entry.

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk



We haven't a prayer

From the millennium prayer to government by cliché and the dumbing of ITV, we are in the grip of dunces

My grandson Wilfrid, who is four years old, was getting annoyed with his mother; in the angry voice little boys use, he said: 'I want you out of my language.' That was how I felt when I read the text of the millennium 'prayer'; it has so annoyed the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster that they are thinking of boycotting the Dome on millennium night. They will, in any case, be much better off with their own congregations, in their own cathedrals, praying to their God. The Dome has no faith, though it smells faintly of neo-paganism.

The prayer, as quoted in the *Daily Mail*, reads: 'Let there be respect for the Earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs, and from now on a new start.'

No mention of God; no mention of Christ. The churches are said to be spending £6 million sending a copy of this string of slogans, together with a free candle, to 18 million homes in Britain. Apart from the Dome itself, there can hardly be a greater waste of money. There are quite enough people in Britain already who speak in clichés — almost all of the new Labour Party for a start — without spending £6 million on dumbing down our language still further.

My first reaction to the millennium prayer was to compare it with genuine prayers, with the Lord's Prayer, psalms, with the prayers of great religions. It does, indeed, borrow some religious language. 'Let there be' comes from the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. 'And God said, let there be light; and there was light.' 'Respect' is a word used in the Mafia to describe the deference appropriate to the leader of a criminal organisation. 'Respect for the Earth' is a green slogan.

'Peace for its people' is quite close to 'peace in our time', which Neville Chamberlain, on his return from Munich, borrowed from the Book of Common Prayer. 'People' is, of course, a new Labour word, as in 'People's Princess'. 'Love in our lives' occupies an intermediate position between a religious statement and the lyric of an old-fashioned popular song; it could well be the last line of one of those mawkish modern hymns written for children.

'Delight in the good' is a mysterious, even ambiguous, phrase. Are we being advised to delight in good things, as a wine expert might savour a glass of

Château-Lafite, or a silver connoisseur might admire a Paul Storr saltcellar? Or are we simply supposed to delight in doing good, which often involves labour and self-sacrifice? Isaac Watts thought that all creatures delighted in the natural appetites God had given them. 'Let dogs delight to bark and bite. For God hath made them so: Let bears and lions growl and fight. For 'tis their nature too.'

'Forgiveness for past wrongs' mixes one of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer with the modern habit of apologising for historic evils, such as the slave trade or the potato famine. My own Irish ancestors were on the wrong side of the potato famine, so I regularly apologise to them on behalf of my English ancestors.

Finally, one comes to 'and from now on a new start', which sounds like a new Labour slogan for the next general election. The whole thing is not a prayer at all. As the *Daily Mail* reports: 'Supporters point out that it was carefully composed so that it could be used by Christians, those of other faiths and those of no faith at all.' It is a political statement, designed to persuade people of differing views that they are in agreement when they are not. I do not know whether it is more offensive for its stylistic clumsiness, for the mere repetition of fragments of real prayers, or for the mind-numbing combination of vagueness with intellectual dishonesty.

The Dome has become the grand national symbol of the process of dumbing-down. It is splendid news that the Jubilee Line may not be finished, so the best way to get there on the night may be to abandon one's car in Greenwich and jog through a disused container port. That sounds an ideal way to celebrate the start of the new millennium.

In Inspector Clouseau's accent, comes on at a late hour, and has been encouraged to follow the dreary agenda of political correctness. I am not criticising ITV for excessive emphasis on popular entertainment — would that I could — but for the oceanic boredom of its schedules. From 8pm to 9pm this evening, a peak viewing hour, ITV will be showing 30 minutes of surveillance footage, taken by HM Customs, followed by a half hour of home improvements on the Wirral. Of course, there is always *Coronation Street*: 'Maxine struggles to cope at the salon in the absence of Audrey, while Gary and Judy decide on godparents for the twins.' There is gritty socialism for you. However, there has always been the compensation of *News at Ten*, topical, well-presented, well-edited, the most professional of the network news services. For more than 40 years that has remained an excellent news programme in its first years it forced the BBC to modernise

'dome', 'dump', 'damp', and 'dumb' all sound very much the same. The Prime Minister has told the Queen she must spend millennium night in a dumb dome, or perhaps in a damp dump. That will make her the new People's Queen, and help him to retain the new People's Prime Minister.

Another, and more than symbolic, dumbing-down has been the wanton destruction of independent television. I hope it will be discussed at the conference on dumbing-down which *The Times Literary Supplement* is mounting next Friday. For 30 years, ITV produced some of the best television in Britain, constantly challenging and often surpassing the BBC. It has already been reduced to a shadow of what it once was. One can read the ITV programme on most nights without seeing anything that raises a flicker of interest or pleasure. Even the great Melvyn Bragg only comes on at a late hour, and has been encouraged to follow the dreary agenda of political correctness.

As with the dumb Dome, complete with its God-free spirit zone, Tony Blair's Government must share the blame for the destruction of the ITV tradition. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is also responsible for broadcasting. He appointed Gerry Robinson, the chairman of the Arts Council, as the chairman of the Arts Council, and has done his best to dumb down the Arts Council as well. Mr Smith continues to condescend and stumbles on television as the apostle of support for the arts.

The Prime Minister has done more than anyone in British public life to substitute propaganda images for political debate. From the start of his leadership, he spoke in sound-bites for the soundbites came. He uses political language to sentimentalise and dissolve the real issues of policy, not to define them. It is rather the same as a conjurer using patter to distract his audience from what he is actually doing. No doubt this is a worldwide fashion. President Clinton himself abuses language as well as women.

Alexander Pope described the triumph of unreason in the *Dunciad*: 'Lo! Thy dread empire, Chaos, is restored; Light dies before thy uncreating word.' Our national dialogue has been denatured; in religion, in politics, in social debate there has been a substitution of spin and image for language, truth and logic. I am extending Wilfrid's motto: 'I want the dunces out of my language.'

comment@the-times.co.uk



William Rees-Mogg



Tally low

LEAKY roofs at the National Trust, courtesy of the Prince of Wales's friends: the wrangle over the charity's ban on stagplanning is heading for the courts again, and its coffers are emptying sharply.

The trust, which has already spent more than £200,000 on legal fees, is being pursued with renewed vigour by the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, whose supporters include Hugh Van Caussem, a pal of Prince Charles. Money for the case has to be diverted from conservation work.

My tip for a better use of funds: Hardwick Hall, the Duke of Devonshire's former ancestral seat — memorably described by Lord Torrington as 'one of the proudest piles I ever beheld' — which is crumbling to dust in trust hands. Says a big welly: 'They should put down their briefs and get back to drystone walls.'

CRISPIN MILLS. Sir John Mills's pop-singing grandson, on his route into rock star debauchery: 'I grew up with pictures of my Mum [Hayley Mills, below, with clan] looking very young, standing with John Wayne or Walt Disney. That did something to my head.'



AN archbishop has fallen out with his estate agent, and is worried about a lost £8 million. Alwyn Rice Jones, the Archbishop of Wales, had his unhappy brush with Mammon after flogging Church of Wales land for £27 million; shortly afterwards, the canny buyer sold it on for £35 million. Over to Knight Frank, the land's valuers, who tell me cautiously: 'We understand the Church is still considering its position.'

IS Rosie Boycott the new Parry? My close chum, the Editor-in-Chief of *Express Newspapers*, has told friends she wants to be a chat show host. Her hoped-for outlet, Channel 5, is about as popular as her current home.

LAWYERS have been ruminating over the appointment of Mr Justice Lightman to hear the most recent BCCI case. In his more humble days as a QC, Lightman defended Abbas Gokal, one of the BCCI baddies. After Lord Hoffmann's Amnesty troubles, this is sensitive stuff, but Cherie Booth, one of the defending lawyers, was happy: she spoke to Lightman about his record and was convinced of his impartiality.



AN illegitimate Dome has been born. The company building the real thing is erecting a 50-metre-high practice tent for the circus types who will perform at Greenwich.

NICK HORNBY turned to laddish novel-writing after his inkly ambitions were thwarted. Hornby, a recent £2 million transfer to Penguin, was a listless graduate when he applied to the journalism course at City University. Cruelly rebuffed, he turned his hand to fiction. 'We look for commitment, aptitude and personality,' says Linda Christmas, City's current taskmistress. 'Anyway, journalism is not about writing.'

ROYAL cinematic preferences will be clear when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Angels, the world's largest theatrical costumes, on Thursday. While the Queen will peruse outfits from Elizabeth and Shakespeare in Love, Prince Philip has asked to see the Nazi uniforms from Saving Private Ryan.

JASPER GERARD

Those Tsars, Tsarinas and party General Secretaries who are internationally considered the most impressive were often the maddest

To watch the increasingly frenzied race to be President of Russia, you would be forgiven for getting the impression that the job was somehow a desirable one, that you would not have to be seriously unstable to want it.

It seems that everyone who is anyone, from film directors to food magnates, is enthusiastically denying any intention to run (seemingly the accepted way of announcing the beginning of your presidential campaign).

To any outside observer, the advantages of being President here would appear to be few. In fact, aside from the fact that the Moscow traffic is completely cleared from the roads to allow the smooth passage of your entourage, they are non-existent. No leader in the whole documented history of the country can be characterised either by their uniformly great achievements or

by their sanity. Those Tsars, Tsarinas and General Secretaries who are internationally considered the most impressive were often the maddest.

Aleksei Konstantinovich Tolstoy's 19th-century poem *History of Russian Government* is a satire documenting Russia's changes of leadership, and though he recounts the literary triumphs of Catherine the Great's reign and the naval prowess of Peter the Great, the following refrain echoes throughout the poem: 'Our country is rich but there is still no order here.'

Yet to this day there are plenty of people clamouring to create some. It seems that half the presidential pretenders do not themselves know why they seek power. Yevgeni Primakov genuinely had no desire to step in when persuaded to become Prime Minister last September,

and such is the madness of Russian political life that he is one of the most popular contenders for President in 2000, although he still insists that he will not be running.

Vladimir Dvogan, however, a 36-year-old food and drink millionaire, has saturated the airwaves and billboards with adverts for his new Dvogan Party, even though he has failed to register even for December's parliamentary elections. He says he may run for President in 2004.

Nobody believes Primakov's claims of non-participation but I think his reluctance is entirely understandable. Primakov has said he wants to retire and do some fishing, which sounds good when compared with the job of constant crisis management

Anna Blundy



which could be his, and in fact already is his since Boris Yeltsin has slipped into the shadows of illness and incapacitation.

Sergei Kiriyenko the youthful former Prime Minister, ousted after precipitating the financial crisis last August, has also hurried himself back into the fray with his bid for a parliamentary seat

centring on a series of heart-warming television advertisements which depict him building a toy town with his son.

In a televised interview last

Thursday night, Kiriyenko attested to his relative sanity and said that he hated politics. Although he could easily become a businessman or a consultant, it seems, nevertheless, that he just cannot help himself.

The film director Nikita Mikhalkov, who has admitted the remote possibility of his running for President if asked, launched his campaign last week with the premiere of his new patriotic film *The Barber of Siberia*, described by some as 'an advert for Russia'.

None of the world's many 'whither, Russia?' pontificators really fancy Mikhalkov's political chances: this time round, since Primakov is at least managing to maintain the distance and dignity required of a man not running for President, while strenuously consolidating his power base.

The other candidates, whose

intentions are less of a secret, are hysterically rallying support. Governor Aleksandr Lebed, Afghan War veteran and currently top of the volatile presidential succession polls, is set to attend the eighth annual Night of 100 Stars Oscar viewing party at the Beverly Hills Hotel as part of his unlikely effort to appear more palatable to the West, and Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, continues to dazzle Muscovites and visitors to the city with Moscow's new look cleanliness and relative affluence.

People such as Grigori Yavlinsky, of Yabloko, can be virtually ruled out on grounds of sanity, whereas Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of the Communists, well, you only have to take one look at him to see that this is a man who must, really, really want to govern Russia.

comment@the-times.co.uk



THE COMMONS INTEREST

MPs should support radical reform of the Lords

The Royal Commission on Reform of the House of Lords will today hold its first official meeting. In nine months it must produce a blueprint for reform. Lord Wakeham's appointment to the commission in January was widely welcomed because of his reputation as an efficient and flexible chairman. It was assumed then that additional constitutional expertise would be offered by other members of his committee. Although the 12 people who will assemble this morning are distinguished figures, relatively few have specific knowledge of this area. This has fuelled fears, as we report in our pages today, that the commission might feel confident to recommend only the minimum changes.

A limited approach might restrict itself merely to the abolition of the 91 hereditary peers allowed for in the plan that cost Viscount Cranborne his job last year and the introduction of a similar number of elected or even indirectly elected individuals. The bulk of the new body would be nominated. The powers of the Lords might be reduced to offset the new authority that even a slightly more democratic chamber could hold. This would be a grave mistake, producing an Upper House neither sufficiently elected to make its weight effective, nor sufficiently empowered to play the proper role of a second chamber. That would not correct the imbalances between executive and legislature that are at the core of Britain's constitutional difficulties.

There is, however, a powerful lobby in favour of such a flawed solution. It consists almost exclusively of long-serving members of the House of Commons. This cross-party contingent shares the sentiment that any truly credible second chamber would inevitably eclipse the standing of the Lower House. The larger the elected element, it is feared, the more intense is that threat. Lord Wakeham and Gerald Kaufman, the senior Labour Party appointee on the commission, might conclude that the reform which will be most widely welcomed in Parliament, thus

ensuring a swift passage into law, is one that closely reflects the wishes of such MPs.

This would be a major miscalculation of Parliament's best interests. It is not the case that a strengthened House of Lords must automatically lead to a commensurate reduction in the status of the Commons. Throughout this century the formal and informal powers of the Lords have remorselessly declined. This has not made the Commons an ever more mighty force. The opposite is true. The main beneficiaries of a weak second chamber have been ministers and party managers. They, and not the House of Commons, would again be the victors if the Royal Commission backs only marginal alterations to the structure of the Upper House.

Britain needs both Houses of Parliament to become more vigorous institutions. This alone will allow for rigorous scrutiny of the executive, a searchlight that, by exposing defective policy early, is ultimately in the interests of the Government as well. Serious reform of the House of Lords can be the catalyst for a long overdue modernisation of the House of Commons. Indeed, it may be the only event that emboldens backbenchers on all sides to demand new rights. The Conservative Party has spoken of late of its desire to restore the prestige of Parliament. It can advance that cause through Lords reform.

If the Tories are to have influence, they must act quickly. The committee led by Lord Mackay of Clashfern will shortly produce a set of options which the Shadow Cabinet will then consider. The Conservatives require a single, distinctive and radical proposal. This should lead them towards a reformed House of Lords that is half-elected and half-nominated. The elected section should contain members serving for lengthy, non-renewable terms to ensure their independence. Such a programme would put pressure on the Labour Party to endorse an equally imaginative scheme. It would also be an invaluable contribution to this most important debate.

GOOD EUROPEANS AGAINST EMU

A powerful, coherent non-partisan case for staying out

The Commons exchanges that followed Tony Blair's presentation of the National Changeover Plan last week revealed more about the political hand that the Prime Minister intends to play over the next two years than it did about the "objective" economic tests which the Government says will determine its position on EMU. Against reasoned, principled argument, his trump will be that those who oppose giving up sterling for the euro have a hidden agenda which is viscerally anti-European. Voters, he will suggest, have more sense than to align themselves with yesterday's men, old Tory dogs yapping at the heels of history's caravan. He will present the pro-EMU case as part of Labour's modernising agenda, a logical strategy for increasing Britain's international influence as well as its prosperity.

In response to this New Europe, the group that David Owen launches today to put the case against joining, offers a direct and powerfully argued riposte from a distinctively European standpoint. Lord Owen has long championed the European Union; so have the politicians, economists and business leaders around him. This is a non-partisan group of former Cabinet ministers from Left and Right. Lord Prior as well as Lord Healey, of businessmen and economists who have advised this Government as well as the last. It has resources, trustworthy leadership, and a simple, coherent message.

The heart of New Europe's case is that opposition to joining EMU is entirely consistent with a positive British role in the EU. That role should be to promote an upward-looking, dynamic Union, close to the governed and politically as well as economically flexible. Not only is staying

out consistent with this vision; it would actually fit better with a modern European vision than the fatalistic notion that just because the euro exists, Britain must join. That is because EMU is not only untested, but inherently flawed. A single interest rate cannot, by definition, take account of multiple national conditions. Rather than guaranteeing stability, growth and high employment, EMU could thus aggravate the rigidities that have inflicted stagnation and dole queues on much of the EU. For Britain, EMU would be a straitjacket.

Politically, EMU implies a federal Europe. A British decision to join would be, as the group points out, "a decisive step towards turning Britain into a mere province of Europe, with a consequent loss not only of independence but of democratic accountability". Outside, Britain retains the advantages of language, light regulation and flexible markets — and in sterling, a currency that would be more stable than the euro against the dollar. For these and other reasons that New Europe identifies, joining "in the foreseeable future" would actually make it harder, not easier, "to achieve the new Europe that we want to see", united, co-operative but not federal.

New Europe speaks to those, probably a majority of the electorate, who know that Britain's destiny lies within the EU but who have deep doubts about the political as well as economic wisdom of taking this irrevocable step. It provides an intellectual home for people of all parties and none. While working with groups such as Business for Sterling, it sees the need to stay well clear of other, Europhobic campaigns against EMU. This is a serious case, argued by serious people. It offers what Britain needs: a proper debate.

TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

The Princess Royal should make Holyroodhouse her home

In 1822, George IV made the first visit to Scotland by a ruling monarch since the Jacobites. His visit caused a furore. Few Scots had seen their King before. And there he was before their eyes, dressed in a kilt, a garment that had been banned after the Jacobite rebellion. The magic of such a royal progress captivated the public and, 177 years later, faced with the prospect of separatist, centrifugal forces unleashed by devolution, royal advisers are now dreaming up similar plans to bolster the Union. Court sources have been quick to dismiss reports that part of their "Scottish initiative" could include making the Palace of Holyroodhouse the Princess Royal's "official residence". They should think again. Such an act could not be more apposite. George IV would have approved.

Given her close links with Scotland, the Princess Royal has excellent credentials to become a Princess Regent in Edinburgh. She has made more appearances north of the border than any other member of the Royal Family. Her son has played for Scotland in international rugby and she is herself patron of that vital institution, the Scottish Rugby Union.

Even so, the Princess would be forgiven for viewing the idea with trepidation. She might well be given a frosty reception by

some, especially members of the Scottish National Party. Its official policy is to retain the Queen as head of state when she is resident in Scotland, with the Speaker of the new parliament fulfilling the role in her absence. Yet according to a 1998 opinion poll, nearly half the SNP's candidates for the parliament would vote to abolish the monarchy. Their republicanism makes a royal presence even more important.

Holyroodhouse lies just a few hundred yards from the Scottish parliament. For the Princess to become a neighbour to politicians charting Scotland's future might be criticised as mere symbolism, but symbolism can be a powerful riposte to the lures of separatism.

A royal resident would remind Scots of the shared values that, even with devolution, bind the United Kingdom. Leaving the palace empty, bar the few weeks each year when the Queen makes it her home, could be cited by the SNP as evidence of an absent, uncaring monarchy, for whom Scotland is little more than a place for holidays. The Royal Family has a crucial, cohesive role to play in tempering Scottish separatism. The pageantry of monarchy might seem out of step with the modernism of New Labour, but it serves as a buckle for the Union and an emblem of continuity.

Priorities for Nato peace negotiators

From Professor Emeritus Adrian Hastings

Sir, While they prepare for the commencement of the talks on Kosovo in two weeks' time, I suggest that the leaders of Nato ponder four near-certainties.

First, that the war cannot stop without actual Nato intervention. If it does not stop now, it will go on and on, with ever greater destruction and massacre on the Bosnian model. Nato's reputation will be in shreds and its threats will no longer carry the slightest weight.

Second, that the Kosovan claim to independence is very reasonable and its eventual achievement next to inevitable. Everything now hanging, and that has happened since 1989, makes it almost unthinkable that they should agree to remain yoked to Serbia. To close the road to future independence by not allowing for a referendum, even in five years' time, is as gravely undemocratic as it would be in the case of Scotland.

Third, that, paradoxical as it may seem, the only way to save the surviving Serb minority from extinction is to ensure Kosovan self-government now, with firm minority safeguards. The longer the war continues, the more certain it is that the Serb community will be so antagonised towards its Albanian neighbours that it will not survive.

Fourth, that Milosevic does not care in the least what happens to the Serb minority, any more than he cared about the fate of the Serbs of Krajina. What he cares about is that he stays in power in Belgrade.

Yours,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
3 Hollin Hill House,
219 Oakwood Lane, Leeds LS8 2PE.
February 26.

'Unsafe' IRA conviction

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, His Honour Joseph Dean (letter, February 17) finds it difficult to see the justification for the Court of Appeal's recent quashing of the conviction of the alleged IRA terrorist, Nicholas Mullen, because he had been illegally deported from Zimbabwe rather than going through the proper extradition process.

The justification is simple. As Lord Griffiths pointed out in the House of Lords in *Bennett v Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court* (1993), the judiciary accept a responsibility for the maintenance of the rule of law that, inter alia, refuses to countenance behaviour threatening either basic human rights or the rule of law.

Perhaps another way of putting it is that once the courts allow the executive to step to this sort of misconduct, they are reducing themselves to the same level as the allegedly wicked men they are trying.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
4 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4Y 7DL.

From Mr Charles G. Blake

Sir, His Honour Joseph Dean thinks that the Court of Appeal should not have allowed the appeal of Nicholas Mullen merely because of gross illegality by the Crown before the trial occurred. But this is the effect of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 which replaced the previous test of "unsafe or unsatisfactory" by the unitary test of "unsafe".

Before 1995 this would have been dealt with as an unsatisfactory verdict. There was nothing unfair about the trial process but, rather, the behaviour of the Crown was, according to the court, so bad as to require the sanction of quashing the conviction. That approach is now denied to the Court of Appeal. It had to force this case into the mould of "unsafe" when the safety of the conviction was not truly in issue.

The Home Secretary should look again at the 1995 Act. Whether illegality by the Crown can ever justify acquitting a defendant of a most serious crime is itself a matter to be reconsidered.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES G. BLAKE,
46 Linden Gardens, W4 2EH.
cxb57@btinternet.com
February 17.

Seeing red

From Mr D. A. Lyett

Sir, Rose-ringed parakeets may be glamorous to look at and may well "do no harm to anybody" (Weekend, February 20), but I can vouchsafe that they need "keeping an eye on". I have found them very destructive to the chestnut and winter-flowering prunus trees; also the blossom and red berries are nipped from the base of the cotoneaster shrub and let fall.

These used to be a lovely sight at the appropriate time of year but now, with the advent of these birds, I count myself lucky if in spring the chestnut has a quarter (probably less) of what it used to display.

These invaders should not be viewed through rose-tinted spectacles, no matter how colourful they are.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. LYETT,
9 The Paddocks,
Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3AJ.
February 23.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Low gear urged in drive to euro

From Mr G. T. L. Rose

Sir, As an instinctive pro-European with over 40 years' involvement in voluntary work for the Conservatives, I was delighted to read the article by Mary Ann Sieghart, "Young, free and anti-single market" (February 26). I find it quite wrong that moderate members of the party such as myself should be labelled as right-wing xenophobes because we cannot support an early entry by the UK into economic and monetary union.

Should sterling be abandoned in favour of the euro, this country will have made an irreversible decision which will surely lead eventually to a federal Europe. This may come to be seen as the right economic answer within the next few years and, perhaps, in the longer term, also the right political answer. But the case is far from proven and I can only wish Mary Ann Sieghart, David Owen and their group every success in their campaign at least to delay the decision.

Yours etc,
G. TIMOTHY L. ROSE,
Ennerdale, Clifton,
Ashbourne DE6 2GR.
February 27.

From Mr Clive Webster

Sir, As one who trades with most EU countries and many in other continents, I believe that the euro, like the US dollar, should become an excellent vehicle for inter-European and international trade.

However, the concerns which were so well identified in your leader, "Five tests for Europe" (February 24; letters, February 25, 26, 27), could be largely overcome if only the European governments concerned had agreed to a longer and more flexible transition, with the euro running in tandem with national currencies.

Business leaders and politicians are becoming increasingly polarised in their views. Yet both sides have valid arguments which would be largely overcome if we were permitted a longer period of transition to prepare our economy for the single currency.

Voters in our referendum, when it comes, should not be presented with a "euro yes or no" question when they may well want to vote "yes" for the

euro and "no" or "not yet" for abolition of the pound. It would therefore be better to delay the referendum, too.

The problems outlined in your leader are of immense consequence for all EU countries; but there is a sixth test, namely the intention of the EU to incorporate the former Eastern bloc countries in a very few years. Bearing in mind the impact that unification had, and still has, on the German economy and the mark, we should remain very cautious about abolishing the pound until those countries are fully integrated into the EU and performing to the Maastricht criteria.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE WEBSTER,
Clive Webster Limited,
Shoelands, Seale,
Farnham, Surrey GU10 1HL.
February 25.

From Mr B. E. Danton

Sir, The Danes initially voted against acceptance of the conditions set out in the Maastricht treaty. Subsequently these conditions were accepted after a second vote.

If, in the forthcoming referendum, the British people reject acceptance of the euro how many referenda will be necessary before, in the eyes of the Government, we "get it right"?

Yours sincerely,
B. E. DANTON,
20 Mere Close,
Newport, Shropshire TF10 7OL.
brian.danton@mere-close.freeserve.co.uk
February 28.

From Mr Rupert Pepper

Sir, I see Mr Paddy Ashdown considers the Government has "crossed the Rubicon" with the Prime Minister's National Changeover Plan (report, February 24). Would this be the treacherous and megalomaniac act of Julius Caesar in 49BC, which plunged his powerful nation into years of civil wars and social and economic misery, earning its perpetrator a violent end within five years at the hands of his closest associates? Or does Mr Ashdown mean another Rubicon?

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT PEPPER,
Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 1TQ.
February 24.

ists and the uniqueness and invention of Matisse and Picasso among others.

Of course, the wheat needs to be sorted from the chaff in any age. Sadly, we find today a small handful of undeserving lightweights and their patrons receiving the bulk of the publicity. This should not detract from the many serious artistic developments in our time which will endure.

It is unfair to paint the majority of modern artists with the same brush.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PITTUCK,
Hillside Cottage, 62 Dunmow Road,
Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HL.
February 22.

Sale of art fakes

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, While respecting David Gould's authority in the matter of fakes and original works of art (letter, February 22) I am not sure I can agree with his sweeping reference to much of modern art as "questionable rubbish".

What distinguishes the importance of any work of art, as I see it, lies not in the facility with which its technical style can be copied, but in less obvious and unscientific criteria. If it were otherwise the admired painstakingness of the Pre-Raphaelites would take precedence over the Impression-

Labour and tax

From Mr R. Mallace

Sir, In the leaflet enclosed with my 1999-2000 tax coding, the Inland Revenue explains that (to use its example) a 60-year-old married man with a total annual income of £5,500, who previously paid no tax, will now have to pay £43 tax because of changes to the married man's allowance.

This from a Government whose venality would make many dictators gasp in envy.

Yours sincerely,
R. MALLACE,
3 Hinton House Farm Cottages,
Byfield, Daventry,
Northamptonshire NN11 3QT.
mallace@mcmail.com
February 23.

Nuclear power

From Sir Crispin Tickell

Sir, Sir James Hann (letter, February 10) is quite right to call for an "authoritative, independent study" on the future civil uses of nuclear energy. The Royal Institute of International Affairs has already identified this need, and I act as chairman of a steering group to set up just such a study within the institute's energy and environment programme.

We propose to run a series of workshops focusing on the more controversial topics, including waste disposal, safety, proliferation, economic viability and competition with other forms of energy. It would bring participants from a wide range of backgrounds together in a neutral forum.

The aim of these workshops is not to reach agreement between the different points of view, probably an impossible task, but to achieve a better understanding of the possibilities, in the hope that such information would help governments and the public worldwide to understand the issues and so help the decision-making process.

We look forward to support, both financial and moral, from Sir James and others who want an impartial scrutiny of the vital issues involved.

Yours faithfully,
CRISPIN TICKELL,
The Royal Institute of
International Affairs,
10 St James's Square, SW1Y 4LE.

Biographers' place

From Mr F. G. R. Fisher

Sir, Where do biographers perch? This problem has exercised me for a number of years. It cropped up again today when I read in John Lowe's biography of John Sparrow (Harper-Collins, 1998): "When John came to Winchester... Other biographers speak of their subjects 'coming to Oxford' and a chapter or two later, 'coming to Liverpool'."

Do biographers actually seek lodging in these places before they pen the relevant paragraphs?

Yours faithfully,
ROBSON FISHER,
Craig Cottage,
Lower Street, Dittisham,
Nr Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 0HY.
February 22.

From Sir Michael Moore,
Director General of the
Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Sir, What a good letter from Professor Ian Fells (February 10), advocating the virtue of nuclear power.

This institution was commissioned in June 1998 by the Engineering Council to produce views for the engineering profession and Government on energy for the 21st century. Nuclear energy is very much part of that equation.

However, we also need a balanced portfolio of primary fuels which recognises the UK's indigenous resources, coupled with the best available technologies, whether coal, gas, oil, nuclear or renewable energy.

How this can best be achieved in a market economy, which needs lowest-cost energy, has to be addressed by the politicians taking account of technical, economic and commercial advice.

We await action.
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MOORE,
Director General,
Institution of Mechanical Engineers,
1 Birdcage Walk, SW1H 9JJ.
m.moore@imeche.org.uk
February 10.

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Letters for publication may
be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

End of 'subsidy' for classical music

From the Chief Executive of the Performing Right Society

Sir, The protest by Dr Donald Mitchell and five composers over our decision to cease subsidising live performances of classical music (letter, February 23) needs to be seen in context.

A report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1996 charged the Performing Right Society with making its distributions fairer, more accurate and more transparent. This has been achieved through an extensive two-year market research project which produced a statistically valid model for collecting performance information and for apportioning royalties more accurately than ever before.

We have therefore decided to remove all "hidden" special compensatory payments via royalty distributions, without value judgments which single out any particular genres of music. The phasing out of the classical music subsidy in its current form is in the same spirit of greater accuracy, fairness and transparency. Membership consultation has shown no majority support for a classical music subsidy.

The vast majority of our present subsidy to classical music is paid to music publishers and the estates of deceased composers, most of whom are not British. Far from the effect of its withdrawal being "devastating", only 11 per cent of it is paid to living British composers.

Although such subsidy will cease by 2002, we shall certainly continue supporting classical music, but in a more focused and transparent way.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUTCHINSON,
Chief Executive,
Performing Right Society,
29-33 Berners Street, W1P 4AA.
February 22.

From Mr Trevor Glover and others

Sir, The implications of the unilateral decision by the PRS will affect contemporary classical music in this country for years to come. Such music involves major investment by publishers, especially in the preparation of performance materials for large orchestral forces, and there is usually a long period before a new classical work gains public recognition. These costs, often unrecovered for decades, are funded by the publishers' share of these very revenues, which this decision has cut almost in half.

This comes as the final straw, following a series of changes to PRS distribution methods in the last decade which have all had an adverse effect on classical earnings in the UK. For example, a typical performance of a 20-minute work in the Queen Elizabeth Hall which earned around £275 in 1994 currently earns £180; after removal of the subsidy, this sum will fall to around £90, shared between composer and publisher.

These are desperate days indeed for publishers, composers and their estates in Britain, and the PRS decision will be viewed with incredulity in the international world of music, which still regards the fundamental contribution of the UK publishing community to be a benchmark for the creation, encouragement and promotion of contemporary classical music. We urge the PRS board to suspend abolition of the subsidy.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR GLOVER,
Managing Director, Bossey & Hawkes,
CHRIS BUTLER,
Director, Novello & Co.,
SALLY GROVES,
Head, Contemporary Music, Schon Ltd,
MARTIN KINGSBURY,
Director, Faber Music,
BEN NEWING,
Head, Business Affairs, Universal Edition,
JAMES RUSHTON,
Director, Chester Music,
295 Regent Street, W1R 8JH.
February 26.

Brit-spotting

From Lady Bowman

Sir, Mr M. D. Jervis asks if British women are as recognisable abroad as their male counterparts (letter, February 26; see also letters, January 29, February 6, 13, 18 and 20).

I can only report that, emerging from the sea at a trendy French beach having swum round from an adjoining cove, I was immediately addressed in English.

But could it have been because I was wearing a one-piece bathing-dress with a skirt?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTIAN BOWMAN,
The Walled Garden,
Chamberlain Street,
Wells, Somerset BA5 2PE.
February 26.

From Mrs Carole Howman

Sir, Whilst holidaying in Paxos, I went for an early morning swim in the bay. Anchored about a quarter of a mile away was a magnificent yacht, which I swam towards and around.

When I had completed the circuit a guttural voice called out "Go away English woman!" Being from Yorkshire I proceeded to swim round three more times.

Yours sincerely,
CAROLE HOWMAN,
Hillbrow, Church Green,
Great Wymondley,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 7ES.
February 26.

The night sky in March

good methods, or in carrying through
they will be confused from the
benefit of any distribution.
Dated 22nd February 1999
F S Dunn & M P Riley, Joint
attorneys

OBITUARIES

LADY PANSY LAMB

Lady Pansy Lamb, writer, died on February 19 aged 94. She was born on May 18, 1904.

Daughter of an earl, bohemian, blue stockinged and devoted fan of the Pope, Lady Pansy Lamb surprised everybody by herself. Painted almost continuously by her Bloomsbury husband, Henry Lamb, she retained the unselfconscious, amiable charm of her youth into her nineties. Her sister-in-law, Christine, the Countess of Longford, described her, seventy years before, as "a blonde angel, her eyes lakes of blue, and her 'tints' — as the Victorians would have called them — like wild roses".

But ideas were always more important to Pansy than appearances. Perhaps this made her the perfect subject for Henry Lamb, 20 years her senior and already once married to a famous Bloomsbury model and free spirit, Euphemia. Lamb had been Lady Ottoline Morrell's lover and Carrington's intimate, and in later years he entertained his nieces with stories of being chased round the rockery by Lytton Strachey, whose lust was constrained by his trousers falling round his knees.

Lady Pansy's feelings about her husband's Bloomsbury friends remain obscure, though she recently criticised their manners as "rather gauche". Nevertheless, at her 90th birthday party she fell into animated conversation with Frances Partridge.

England, by then, was only a holiday destination to her, for at the age of 75 her allegiance to Pope John Paul II prompted her to a new life in Rome, where she lived until her death.

Lady Margaret Pansy Felicia Lamb was the second child and eldest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Longford. (The family were embroiled by "that brute Cromwell", as John Benjamin put it.) Her younger brother, Frank Longford, inherited the earldom when his brother Edward died without an heir in 1961. Her younger sisters are the writers Lady Mary Clive, who published a memoir of her growing up, *Brought Up and Brought Out*, and Lady Violet Powell, who married the novelist Anthony Powell and also published a family memoir, *Five Out of Six*. The fourth sister, Lady Julia, was the mother of the Editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*, Ferdinand Mount. The Longfords were soldiers and sailors, and in 1915 the six



Henry Lamb's last portrait of his wife, Lady Pansy, dating from 1947

children became fatherless when the Earl of Longford was killed leading a charge at Gallipoli, pipe in mouth. His last words were: "I wish you would stop ducking Fred. The men don't like it and it doesn't do any good." Family life continued as before, divided between England, Aston Hall in Oxfordshire, London and Ireland, where the family home boasted 130 rooms and extensive castellations and turrets, plus water garden, Chinese gardens and long walls of hothouses. Throughout her life Lady Pansy paid it an annual visit.

School was not *comme il faut* for the older two girls, and Pansy's famously encyclopaedic knowledge arose from a passion for books and a phenomenal

memory. Her thirst for knowledge was certainly not satisfied by the world of London debutantes, where an earl's daughter was expected to find a husband in the Twenties, so the rebellious Pansy took a job in the office of the architect George Kennedy, through whom she met Henry Lamb. At that time she was sharing a flat with Evelyn Gardner, whom she introduced to Evelyn Waugh, which resulted in the disastrous union of she-Evelyn and he-Evelyn. While waiting in the countryside for their respective marriages to be arranged (Lamb needed a divorce first), Evelyn Waugh wrote *Deline and Fall* and Pansy began the first of two novels, *The Old Expedient*, which was even-

tually published bearing a cover drawing by Waugh.

The Lambs set up home at Coombe Bissett in Wiltshire in 1928 and as Anthony Powell said, "Henry threw himself into family life with the same sort of energy and enthusiasm he brought to everything he did." Soon they had three children, and because money was short (earls' daughters being on their own in that respect), Pansy continued her self-education by daily trips to Beches second-hand bookshop just outside the Close in Salisbury, where she found reading for hours. She had introduced her husband to a new circle of friends, including Lord David Cecil, Cecil Beaton, L. P. Hartley, Kenneth Clark and

John Betjeman, who began a poem, "Oh the calm of Coombe Bissett is tranquil and deep..."

During the war Lamb was an official war artist and Pansy discovered one of several important heroes in her life, Charles de Gaulle. Two other heroic Charleses, Charles I and the French Roman Catholic poet Charles Péguy, inspired her to write books. Her translation of Péguy's *The Holy Innocence* and other poems was published in 1956 and suggests that her later conversion to Catholicism was not the sudden decision that many supposed.

In 1960 Henry Lamb died, and Pansy moved in rather reduced circumstances to Notting Hill Gate in London, where she took in exotic, mostly Romanian lodgers, helped at a home for the blind and, in a team of academics under Humphrey House, worked at her most scholarly occupation, working on the letters of Dickens — another Charles — for the great Pilgrim Edition.

However, in 1981, aged 75, with her eyesight already failing, she announced that she was going to live in Rome so as to be near to Pope John Paul II, whose real name was Karol (Charles) Wojtyla. Shortly after arriving there, she was received into the Catholic Church, and she soon knew more about the Vatican's treasures than many lifelong residents.

Her flat, in the old quarter of Rome, was always ringing to the strains of Vatican Radio (in English, because she never mastered Italian — although she learnt Ancient Greek in her late seventies). The walls were covered with Henry Lamb's, the shelves filled with signed Evelyn Waugh's and the air was thick with smoke from the cigarettes she never abandoned.

Despite semi-blindness, she walked everywhere, an indomitable upright figure, proud to avoid death by Roman traffic. Several times a week she took up position under the portico of St Peter's as one of the official guides for English-speaking visitors. Three years ago, she enjoyed a private audience with the Pope, for which she swapped her usual red and brown peaked cap for a black lace mantilla, showing the depth of her feeling for the man whose "spiritual energy" she so admired. Her companion on that occasion noted that "she revered the Pope like a humble courtier reverencing Louis XIV — as well as thoroughly enjoying the Vatican gossip".

Lady Pansy Lamb is survived by two daughters and a son.

CLIVE BUTLER

Clive Butler, consulting surgeon to the London Hospital, 1937-69, died on January 25 aged 94. He was born on April 8, 1904.

NO PASSENGER on the maiden voyage of the *Queen Mary* in 1936 could have guessed that the handsome young ship's surgeon, Clive Butler, would soon be world-famous for his work with the first antibiotics. He was to serve more than 30 years as a surgeon at the London Hospital, sought after especially in cases of infection.

Edward Clive Barber Butler's parents had both trained at the London (his father as a doctor, his mother as a nurse) and both had helped to care for "the Elephant Man" after his rescue by Sir Frederick Treves. Clive was head boy at Shrewsbury before entering the London Hospital Medical College in 1923. There he met Howard Florey, a young Australian microbiologist who was later to share the Nobel Prize for his work on penicillin.

Butler qualified in 1928 and was trained in surgery by the legendary Russell Howarth. In his seven months on the *Queen Mary* he crossed the Atlantic 30 times, making many friends, including Clifford Nauman Morgan, the colorectal surgeon, and Nancy Harrison, the vivacious American beauty who became his wife.

Out of the blue a vacancy arose at the London Hospital when a surgeon pricked his finger during an operation, developed a rapidly spreading infection and died, in spite of amputation first of the finger, and then of his arm, a grim but typical example of infection in the days before antibiotics. Butler was called in to take charge of the "septic block".

In those crowded wards the worst cases were those of osteomyelitis — infection of the bone — which was then treated by releasing the pus from the marrow cavity by cutting a deep gutter along the length of the infected bone and encasing the whole limb in plaster. This, regardless of stench or maggots, was not changed for weeks, in the hope of avoiding the septicæmia which killed 25 per cent of adults and 80 per cent of children.

Butler arrived in the wake of the discovery of the germ-killing effects of the red dye Prontosil, which was shown to be activated when it was changed in the body to sulphanilamide — which was easy to make and was not patented. It wrought miracles when infection was due to streptococcus, but not with staphylococcus, the usual cause of osteomyelitis. No one learnt faster than Butler, who reported 500 cases in a *Hummerian Lecture* in 1940.

Suddenly, in 1944, things changed when, thanks to his old friend Hugh Calver, who was working with Florey in Oxford, Butler was given a limited supply of penicillin. None of his next 21 patients died, and he soon showed that it was safe to close the wound within 7-10 days. The months of stinking plaster were over.

Shortly after VE-Day the Government flew Butler and Alexander Fleming to Copenhagen to demonstrate the new methods. "Fleming was greeted with enormous enthusiasm," Butler wrote. "Little credit was given to the outstanding work done by Florey and his co-workers in Oxford during the war years. It is quite possible that never have been used on patients."

In the lulls between dealing with civilian casualties, Butler specialised in surgery of the large bowel and introduced new methods. He remained a general surgeon, but later developed a technique for removing cancers of the parotid gland, using an electric stimulator to protect the delicate branches of the facial nerve.

Rather shy, he was a courteous and popular teacher, with an engaging foible of humming *Lead, kindly light* when in difficulties with the sigmoidoscope. He was never ruffled, even when an explosion once singed his eyebrows. He became chairman of the Court of Examiners at the Royal College of Surgeons, and in retirement continued as curator of the museum in his old medical college, in which were lovingly preserved the relics of his parents' friend and patient, Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man.

He was divorced in 1957, but he is survived by his daughter and two sons.

PROFESSOR DUNCAN MITCHELL

Duncan Mitchell, OBE, Professor of Sociology at Exeter University, 1967-85, died on January 25 aged 77. He was born on June 5, 1921.

AS A student at the London School of Economics after the war, Duncan Mitchell's studies included a course in sociology under Karl Popper, a class that produced a profusion of future sociologists.

In 1954, Mitchell was appointed to take charge of sociology in the philosophy department at Exeter, where, as the junior academic partner, responsible for a new subject and eager to expand it, he was aware of the danger of becoming a cuckoo in the departmental nest. Fortunately, the needs of his subject and its growing number of students were accommodated. Extra staff were appointed, and Mitchell was made head of department in 1963, and Professor of Sociology in 1967. Among his publications are *Sociology: The Study of Social Systems* (1959) and *A Dictionary of Sociology* (1968), which was translated into some dozen languages.

Sociology at Exeter reflected Mitchell's eclecticism. Members of staff enjoyed academic reputations in very different areas, and a particularly successful innovation was the establishment of an Institute of Population Studies with Mitchell as director. His contribution to

the university was recognised by his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies, as deputy vice-chancellor, and as acting vice-chancellor, 1972-73.

His service to the community was also outstanding. In 1967 he was one of the founders of the Devon Community Housing Society, which he chaired for 30 years. At first it aimed to accommodate families, but it later concentrated on homes for the elderly, the physically disabled, and people with learning difficulties or needing nursing care. Now the owner of more than 60 properties, it has specialised in converting empty buildings, such as a disused village school, and extending them into groups of homes for community living.

Mitchell was also a member of Dartmoor Prison's board of visitors, and served as chairman of the English Board of Visitors. He was particularly concerned for mentally ill prisoners, whom he considered to be in the wrong place for their own sakes and those of other inmates and prison staff. His speeches on this problem were not always favourably received by the Home Office. Nevertheless, he was appointed OBE in 1984.

He was a committed Christian all his life, and a lay preacher. He is survived by Margaret, his wife of 48 years, and by their son and daughter.

SIR GORDON JONES

Sir Gordon Jones, Chairman of Yorkshire Water, 1983-96, died on January 31 aged 71. He was born on February 17, 1927.

QUIET, caring and fun, Sir Gordon Jones was, as chairman of the Yorkshire Water Authorities Association, to lead the ten water and waste water companies of England and Wales to successful privatisation in 1989. The selling to the public of a mixed bag of large, medium and small companies was unprecedented. The management teams sometimes bickered in public, but Gordon Jones harnessed the interests of boards of directors, government, banks, lawyers and accountants, and the eventual flotation was a success — perhaps because all of the big merchant banks, lawyers and stockbrokers in the City were themselves representing one or more of the companies or underwriting the offer.

Jones also continued as chairman of Yorkshire Water, where efficiency continued to improve. He was knighted in 1990. However, the company's reputation was dented in 1995, when an exceptional drought struck Yorkshire, raising the unacceptable prospect of restricting sup-

ply and using standpipes (though it never came to that). Hounded by an efficient Labour Opposition, the company was portrayed as the worst in an unpopular industry. Jones was the first to admit that its presentation had been poor.

Gordon Jones was born in Swansea, to which he returned when he retired in 1996. After Swansea University, and four years in the Royal Navy, he joined the British Iron and Steel Research Association, working on raw materials and energy planning. At Esso Petroleum, which he joined in 1960, he became head of British industry sales, before returning to the steel industry as managing director of Rotherham Tinsley Steel and Firth Vickers. In 1979 he became a director of T W Ward plc. He was a member of the Government's advisory committee on business and the environment, 1993-96.

He was also a governor of Leeds University, and his interest in young people's education and training was reflected by his honorary fellowship of the University College of Swansea, and an honorary DSC from Bradford University.

He married Gloria Melville in 1951. She survives him, along with their daughter and twin sons.

COLIN PURBROOK

Colin Purbrook, jazz pianist and double bass player, died in London on February 5, aged 62. He was born in Seaford, Sussex, on February 26, 1936.

ANY American jazz musician visiting Britain who wanted a sympathetic and knowledgeable accompanist needed to look no further than Colin Purbrook. The list of world-famous musicians he played for during the 1960s and 1970s is remarkable and included Benny Carter, Dexter Gordon and Eddie Lockjaw Davis.

On the London stage he spent some months in 1987 at the Donmar accompanying the Memphis-born singer Dee Dee Bridgewater in her title role as "Lady Day", and not long before that he had directed the British band that took over from the original American musicians in the London production of *One Mo' Time*.

Last year, having won one battle in his long war against cancer, he proved that his talents were undimmed when he appeared at the Brecon Festival and on Radio 3 with the all-star band Tenor Gladness, with the American saxophonists Scott Hamilton, Ken Peplowski and Harry Allen, and the veteran swing drummer Jake Hanna.

Although Purbrook was happy in almost all styles of

traditional and mainstream jazz, he made his name in the forward-looking British modernist movement of the 1960s. Shortly after coming down from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, in 1957, he joined the iconic clarinetist Sandy Brown. He began on bass but then switched to piano at a time when Brown's band was moving away from New Orleans revivalism to explore contemporary African high-life music and original compositions by the band's members.

After a couple of years in which he gathered experience as varied as playing in Kenny Ball's band and on the *Queen Mary*, he naturally fell in with the core of London's modern jazz musicians, in bands such as the Allan Ganley / Ronnie Ross Jazzmakers (with which he spent several short spells) and the quintet led by Ronnie Scott and the trumpeter Jimmy Deuchar. By 1961, Purbrook had formed a working partnership with the saxophonist Tony Coe, and they worked together often in the 1960s, later renewing that association in the 1980s on the set of *Lady Day*, in which Coe played the grouchy saxophonist who was the foil for Bridgewater's portrayal of Billie Holiday.

Purbrook's stage career began in 1963, during a spell as double bassist in Dudley Moore's trio, which provided the musical component of the revue *Beyond*

the Fringe. The following year he played piano in the pioneering British modern jazz quintet jointly led by Don Rendell and Ian Carr, appearing on their album *Shades of Blue*. As the 1960s went on, he continued his association with Coe, both men appearing on a concert album cut in 1966 for the 77 label alongside the tenorist Tubby Hayes. By now he had begun working with the famous Americans, such as Benny Goodman, Chet Baker and Art Farmer.

In 1977 he became musical director of the show *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, which enjoyed an extended run at the Royal Theatre. He subsequently worked in several other shows, including *Rent Party* in 1989.

During the 1970s and 1980s, he often led his own bands, varying in size from a trio to a sextet, and his trio was frequently used by touring American soloists as a regular rhythm section. The theatrical and jazz sides of his work were most happily combined in his long association with the singer Annie Ross, whom he accompanied on and off for more than 25 years, including residencies within the last three years at the Pizza on the Park in Knightsbridge. His most recent recordings include the critically acclaimed 1996 *Satin Album* with the tenor saxophonist Bobby Wellins.

His former wife and a son survive him.



Latest wills

Leslie Frederick Williams, of London W5, left estate valued at £2,273,141 net.

David Lewis Baldwin, of Tywyn, Gwynedd, left estate valued at £1,264,305 net.

Pamela Anne Chivers, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £1,092,109 net.

She left £500 each to Repton School, Repton Boys' Club, St Paul's School, Cambridge, from Hill, Cambridge, RAF Benevolent Fund, RSPCA, RSPB, Cancer Research Campaign, UNICEF, Barnardo's, Save the Children Fund and WWF Fund UK.

Sidney Vincent Cope, of Colyton, Devon, left estate valued at £1,039,296 net.

Richard Alan James Emery, of Shoburyness, Essex, left estate valued at £1,149,724 net.

Roy Neil Gibbs, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,340,036 net.

Phoebe Agnes Malet Hambleton, of Hyssington, Mon-

gomery, left estate valued at £1,098,447 net.

Malcolm Reginald Hardman, of Wokingham, left estate valued at £1,688,131 net.

Christopher Charles Harley, of Bucknell, Shropshire, left estate valued at £1,098,031 net.

He left £50,000 to Brampton Bryan Parochial Church Council, £500 to Brampton Bryan Parish Hall Committee.

John Lawson, of Prestbury, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £865,917 net.

Lester Lea, retired farmer, of West Charlerton, Kingsbridge, Devon, left estate valued at £1,086,803 net.

Richard Marx, dental surgeon, of South Stoke, Bath, left estate valued at £1,028,160 net.

Edith Mary Meyers, of Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset,

left estate valued at £1,029,600 net.

She left £100,000 to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Esherbury, Shetfield, of Hampshire, London NW9 left estate valued at £1,046,571 net.

Eva Mary Sunley, of Turro, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,603,059 net.

She left £10,000 to the Lions Club of Truro, £5,000 to Devon and Cornwall Air Cadet Community Trust plus her residuary estate to the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation.

Adeline Constance Tristram, of Eastbourne, left estate valued at £1,029,254 net.

She left £10,000 to both the RNLI and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

John Lewis Turner, of Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,562,461 net.

Margaret Hamilton Turner, of Keighley, West Yorks, left estate valued at £1,324,905 net.

Michael Waller Beaufort

OPERA MERGER PROPOSED

THE Sadler's Wells Trust has proposed that its opera company should be amalgamated with the Carl Rosa Opera Company. If the proposal is adopted, a single company will serve both the provinces and Sadler's Wells Theatre.

The proposal was made known yesterday to the staff of Sadler's Wells Theatre in a statement from Mr James Smith, chairman of the Sadler's Wells Trust. It was read by the director, Mr Norman Tucker, who later announced that, because of the proposed new policy, he had resigned, together with Mr Stephen Arlen, general manager of the theatre, and Mr Alexander Gibson, the recently appointed music director. The resignations would take effect in July, at the end of the present contract period.

It was also announced that Mr John Wyckham, production manager and stage director of the opera company, had resigned.

In his statement, Mr Smith said: "For some time past it has been apparent that the continually rising cost of presenting opera in this country might cause some curtailment of the activities of both the Carl Rosa and the Sadler's Wells companies, both

ON THIS DAY

March 1, 1958

The Carl Rosa Opera Company, which did much to popularise opera in Britain, was again in difficulties, but by no means finished.

of which receive substantial subsidies from the Arts Council. But the subsidies now available are insufficient to maintain two companies at their present levels and it does not appear possible for them to proceed as separate organizations after the early summer of 1958 when existing contracts end.

In order to provide the widest possible coverage both in London and the country, the proposal is now being considered that the Sadler's Wells and Carl Rosa organizations should combine to set up a new trust representing both bodies. The new trust, with one opera company, would undertake a tour

in the autumn of 1958 and a London season in the spring of 1959, followed by a further provincial tour.

Should terms prove more propitious in the future it may be possible to return to the position in which two companies can again be maintained.

The proposal means that one orchestra, one chorus, and one set of principals will be employed; it is to be presumed that these forces will be drawn from both companies, but many musicians will be without work as a result of the amalgamation.

Representatives of Equity and of the Musicians' Union said that their organizations would resist to the utmost the proposed changes.

In the statement announcing their resignations, Mr Tucker, Mr Arlen, and Mr Gibson expressed the view that the proposed new policy "means the cessation of the policy pursued by Sadler's Wells since its opening in 1931, operating primarily as a metropolitan house and, since the war, in a complementary capacity to Covent Garden."

The statement went on: "Moreover, in spite of the re-employment that may be offered in individual cases, it involves the disbanding of the opera company which has been carefully built up over a long period and whose prestige has never stood higher than at the present time."

NEWS

Bootleggers force Brown's hand

Gordon Brown is to unveil a tougher-than-expected Budget after being hit by a £2 billion shortfall in revenue, much of it because of tobacco smuggling.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to announce an investigation into the operation of Customs and Excise after officials told him that he was losing more than £1 billion in duty a year through organised cigarette smuggling. The worldwide drop in oil prices will also mean the loss of several million pounds in revenue. **Page 1**

Euro challenge for Blair

David Owen and Denis Healey, veterans of the last Labour government, will return to the front line to present a new challenge to the Government's move towards the euro. They will join forces in a new group billed as pro-European. **Pages 1, 8**

Rape trials row

Baroness Jay, Minister for Women, was last night at the centre of a row over Government plans to clamp down on women's sexual history being admitted as evidence in rape trials. **Page 2**

Gibraltar siege

Three thousand people from La Linea legally work in Gibraltar and are protesting to their own Government that the border restrictions are threatening their livelihoods. **Page 9**

Straw returns

The Home Secretary will be back at his desk today after disappearing for 72 hours at the height of the controversy over the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. **Page 1**

Palace dismayed

Buckingham Palace is dismayed by the limited role that the Queen will play in the opening of the Scottish Parliament. **Page 1**

Playboys

The first lifestyle magazine for professional footballers has been launched, filled with glossy advertisements for fast cars, country mansions and yachts. **Page 3**

Boxing fan killed

A boxing fan died after falling under the wheels of a coach while trying to escape fighting that broke out after a Commonwealth title bout. Violence raged around the ambulancemen as they tried to save the man's life. **Page 5**

Broadcaster hurt

The award-winning broadcaster Sheena McDonald remained in a critical condition yesterday after being hit by a police van. **Page 6**

£6,200 is the cost of old jokes

Dennis the Menace and the Bash Street Kids were mere twinkles in the cartoonist's eye when the first edition of the Beano was published in 1938. Lord Snooty is the only relic to have lasted into the 1990s and only the boy aristocrat and his pals could now afford the original edition, which sold at auction for £6,200, the largest sum paid for a comic in Britain. **Page 1**



Cartoonist puts his stamp on Jenner

A SPECIAL millennium stamp by The Times cartoonist Peter Brookes, portraying the discovery of vaccination by Edward Jenner is to go on sale tomorrow (Mark Henderson writes).

The design, which will feature on the 20p second class stamp, is released as part of the *Portrait of the Nation* collection. Entitled *Dr Jenner's Vaccination*, it tells the 18th century story of how the Gloucestershire doctor discovered a medical advance which has saved millions of lives worldwide.

Dr Jenner noticed that the milkmaids in his village who had caught cowpox never went on to contract the deadly smallpox virus, one of the biggest killers of the day. He took vaccine (derived from the Latin *vaccus*) from a cowpox sore and injected it into a boy, who developed an immunity to smallpox.

The Brookes design incorporates all the elements of the story. Dr Jenner and James Phillips, his patient, are portrayed in silhouette in the markings of a cow, which is milked by an immune maid. It also evokes his popular *Nature Notes* series, which is published in *The Times* on Saturdays. Mr Brookes said: "It is a great honour for a mere cartoonist. It's wonderful to be involved as there is a great galaxy of artists, illustrators and designers working on this project."

Preview: Tribe UK offers insight into the lives of young people (BBC2, 11.15pm). **Review: The Builders** raises the docusoap to an unexplored level of pointlessness, says Paul Hoggart. **Pages 46, 47**

The Commons interest

Britain needs both Houses of Parliament to become more vigorous institutions. A serious reform of the House of Lords can be the catalyst for a long overdue modernisation of the House of Commons. **Page 21**

Good Europeans

New Europe, the group that launches today to put the case against joining EMU, provides an intellectual home for people of all parties and none. **Page 21**

Take the high road

The pageantry of monarchy might seem out of step with the modernism of new Labour, but it serves as a buckle for the Union and an emblem of continuity. **Page 21**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I do not know whether the millennium prayer is more offensive for its clumsiness, for the meretricious use of fragments of real prayers, or for the mind-numbing combination of vacuity of meaning with intellectual dishonesty. **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

Failure to join the euro in the next Parliament would be a huge setback for Blair's strategy and would force a reassessment of his whole foreign policy. **Page 20**

ANNA BLUNDY

To watch the increasingly frenzied race to be President of Russia, you would be forgiven for getting the impression that the job was somehow a desirable one. **Page 20**

Lady Pansy Lamb, writer: Colin Furber, jazz pianist: Clive Butler, surgeon: Duncan Mitchell, sociologist: professor: Sir Gordon Jones, Yorkshire Water. **Page 23**

Nato and Kosovo: National Changeover Plan; end of subsidy for live classical music; art fakes; nuclear power; rose-ringed parakeets. **Page 21**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**
Meet Michael Corder the choreographer who is going to make it all happen for the Royal Ballet

■ **LAW**
Why copyright law could dog any imitators of *One Man and his Dog*

Mirror Bild: Trinity, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, took the next step in its bid to acquire the Mirror Group by tabling an offer worth more than £1 billion over the weekend. **Page 48**Mobile Float: Cable & Wireless is considering a flotation of One-2-One. **Page 48**Comeback: Stephen Hinchcliffe, the disgraced Sheffield businessman who has been charged with ten counts of corruption by the Serious Fraud Office, is trying to revive his career by making children's cartoons. **Page 48**Rate Cut: The City is optimistic that the Bank of England will again cut rates when it concludes its monthly monetary policy committee later this week. **Page 48**

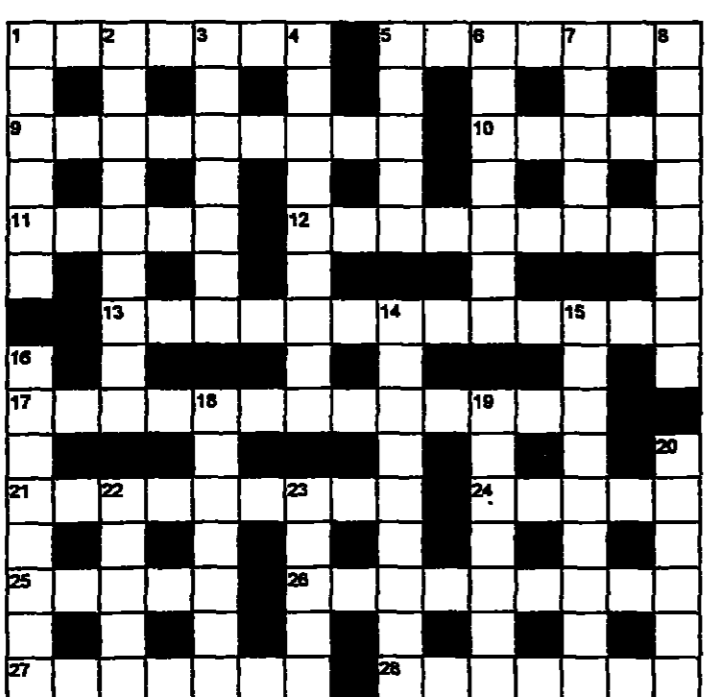
Hidden hero: In a quiet corner of Guildford, Surrey, lives Henk Huffer, an embarrassed hero who saved dozens of Jews from the Nazis. Grace Bradberry interviewed him. **Page 15**

Fabulously happening: Every five years or so, London Fashion Week is supposedly about to meet its Maker. But despite all the hand-wringing, the event is still very much alive. Lisa Armstrong reports. **Pages 16, 17**

Flower power: Susan MacDonald offers advice on what to buy for Mothering Sunday. **Page 40**



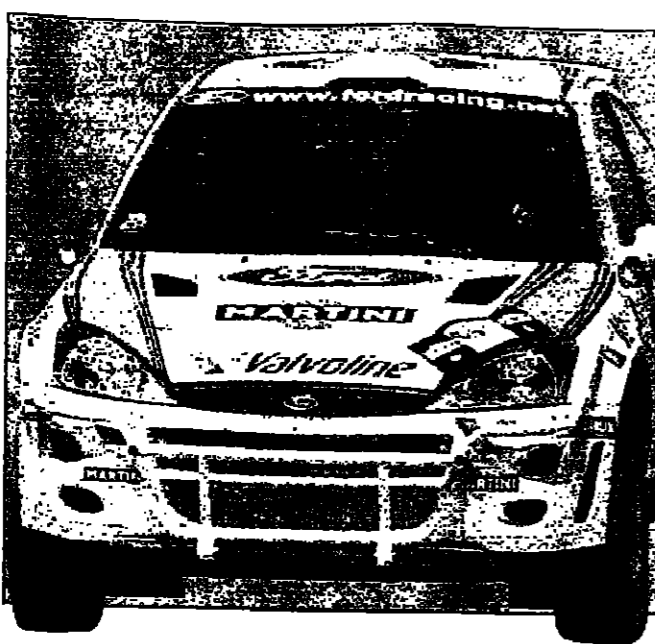
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,039



- ACROSS**
- False claim he made to be bar (7).
 - Fail to go off and produce a report (7).
 - Reckless prosecutor about to take on junior counsel (9).
 - A president's first dance (5).
 - Arab's son mainly employed in sound reproduction (5).
 - Northern state nominates new assembly (9).
 - Certain people display shock after crew's dance (9-4).
 - Remain neutral, or restrain the criminal? (3,2,3,5).
 - Stimulating forstate of cooked tripe and peas (9).
 - Wrongfully seize old city, captured by American power (5).
 - Mature insect a long way back in the past (5).
- DOWN**
- Unassuming, as Mussorgsky was (6).
 - Back of chair used in clubs, luxurious and well-padded (9).
 - Put in fish that's going rotten (7).
 - Pet need of striker in union? (4-5).
 - Fruit produced by bishops, perhaps, outside sex (5).
 - Cardinal takes drink with military men (7).
 - Northerner's home game - soldier turned up first (5).
 - Like taped music some remember as a blessing (8).
 - Money collected from party member without hesitation (9).
 - River worker secures share of profits as performer (9).
 - Spies act strangely, retreating from reality (8).
 - One joining alliance with partners in communities (7).
 - Time in special cell - but one isn't charged (7).
 - Excellent food brought in for each person (6).
 - Seaford pie originally served fresh before noon (5).
 - Goody-goody appearing in main drawing (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0230 444 910
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McRae and Ford have that winning focus

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WINDUP THE WEEKEND OFF SPORT



Ruseas's power failure Baffers

It's my ball and I'm taking it home

Page 25



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 1 1999

HAMANN STRIKES LATE TO

HALT ARSENAL'S CHARGE



Hamann withstands the challenge of Adams, the Arsenal central defender, to power Newcastle United's equalising goal past Seaman at St James' Park yesterday and add another twist to the FA Carling Premiership title race. Photograph: John Giles

Le Saux faces trial by television

GRAEME LE SAUX, Chelsea's England defender, could face trial by television after referee Paul Durkin admitted that he would have sent him off had he seen his alleged elbow attack on Robbie Fowler. Durkin missed the off-the-ball incident during Chelsea's 2-1 win over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and will not be including it in his report to the Football Association. The official, from Portland, has since seen the clash on television, in which Le Saux appeared to elbow Fowler on the back of the head. "I can assure everyone that if I had seen it Le Saux would have been sent off," he said. "But neither I nor my assistant referee saw it. What happens now is down to the FA."

The FA has used video evidence against players before, such as when John Hartson kicked Eyal Berkovic during a training session at West Ham United, and Le Saux could face disciplinary action.

The BBC will provide the FA with a tape of the incident if asked. Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "It is an option while there is also the fourth official's match report to consider." The incident was the culmination of a running battle between Le Saux and the Liverpool striker.

Pressure starts to take toll on champions

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY fled the Tyneside gloom as quickly as they could last night. All but Dennis Bergkamp highlighted it out of St James' Park and headed for the airport and their flight back to London. Some of them moaned half-heartedly about the pitch, horribly heavy and devilishly rutted, but every Arsenal player mourned a more important piece of lost ground.

In other circumstances, perhaps, a hard-fought 1-1 draw with a Newcastle United side that is threatening a modest resurgence might not have been cause for despondency for Arsène Wenger and his side, but such is the pace that Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal have been setting at the top of the FA Carling Premiership as the chase for the title approaches its climax that the two points the champions dropped yesterday, courtesy of a late equaliser by Diemar Hamann, acquired the air of a significant setback.

United, who rested three players in advance of their European Cup quarter-final first leg with Internazionale on Wednesday, squeezed past the desperate challenge of Southampton at Old Trafford to record their eighth win in ten unbeaten league games and maintain their four-point lead at the top of the table.

Chelsea, who seemed to have been clinging on to their own challenge like a boxer beginning to feel the effect of too many punches, defied those



Wenger: knows his team cannot afford mistakes

who doubt them with some invigorating football as they outplayed Liverpool at Stamford Bridge. Those results heaped the pressure on Arsenal, the only one of the trio who have no European fixtures to dilute their commitment, to continue their own remarkable recent sequence of results in the North East and stay in touch.

They seemed to have succeeded when Nicolas Anelka, who is so full of confidence that he seems to think he is going to score every time he gets the ball, claimed his sixth goal in four league games nine minutes before half-time, when he capitalised on successive mis-

UNITED IN THE TITLE CHASE

Since their last defeat - at home to Middlesbrough on December 19 - Manchester United have not a fewer place at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, taking 26 points out of a possible 30. Arsenal and Chelsea have tried their best to match them over that 10-match period but Aston Villa have found the going too tough and have dropped out of contention.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MANCHESTER UNITED 26 (Last 10 matches)	16	9	3	3	63	29	57
CHELSEA 27	14	11	2	1	41	22	53
ARSENAL 27 (Last 10 matches)	13	11	3	3	35	13	50
ASTON VILLA 27 (Last 10 matches)	7	3	0	18	3	24	24

ANELKA'S GOLDEN MONTH

For club and country Nicolas Anelka has enjoyed February, scoring 8 goals in 6 matches, and given Arsenal's title charge a cutting edge.

Date	Goals	Match
Feb 6	2	West Ham 0 Arsenal 4
Feb 11	2	England 0 France 2
Feb 17	1	Manchester United 1 Arsenal 3
Feb 20	3	Arsenal 8 Leicester 0
Feb 23	0	Arsenal 2 Sheffield Utd 1
Feb 28	3	Newcastle 1 Arsenal 3

takes by Steve Howey and Nikos Dabizas to take the ball round Shay Given and slide it calmly into an open net. In the second half, though, the intensity of the struggle to keep pace with United and Chelsea seemed to take its toll.

Arsenal had conceded only two goals in nine Premiership games before yesterday, but the third condemned them to a nervous finish and a seven-point deficit to make up on United.

"We were in front and we could have finished the game off in the first half," Wenger said. "In the second half, we did not seem to come out

enough and take the game to them. We did not really have the feeling that Newcastle were dangerous, but it was as if we were content with 1-0 and we lost our offensive fluency.

"We have dropped two points but we know that it is not easy to get three points here. Of course, we knew before the game that it would be important to win, especially with the way the other results have gone this weekend. But there is still a long way to go and everybody else will drop points, too.

"The only problem we have now is that we, more than the other two, cannot afford any

mistakes. We are still in a good position and we have a game in hand, but it will be a hard battle."

Arsenal's uncharacteristic surrender of a lead cast a shadow over what had been until then a superbly disciplined, resolute performance. Martin Keown and Tony Adams, the heart of a defence that has conceded only 13 goals all season, were heartless in the subjugation of Alan Shearer, unyielding in their domination of the England centre forward.

Patrick Vieira, too, was outstanding at the hub of the side, leading the way in the pressing that joined the home team out of its commendable attempt to play neat, passing football.

Despite the greater flamboyance of United and Chelsea, the suspicion remains that Arsenal have the best balance, the most resilience for the 11-game run-in. The combination of their near-unbreachable defence and the explosive-ness of the partnership between Bergkamp and Anelka is close to irresistible.

Once, perhaps, Ruud Gullit might have been in the thick of it himself, but when he was asked for his opinion on the latest twist in the title race, the Newcastle manager offered a wistful smile. "I have other sorrows now," he said. "Too many worries to be interested in that." Like the joys of others, Gullit spread his sorrow around on Tyneside last night.

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Inter showdown, page 31

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TENNIS

Dubious tactics fail to bring down Krajicek

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD KRAJICEK could afford to be magnanimous. A tactic of dubious legitimacy from Greg Rusedski had transformed the Briton's fortunes of the match before Krajicek, the better player throughout this final of the Guardian Direct Cup, regrouped to collect the sixteenth title of his career.

Rusedski himself would have savoured the quality of service that had swept Krajicek to the brink of victory. The hard part was complete. Krajicek merely had to hold serve, as he had throughout the match, for two more games to cash the \$128,000 (£80,000) winner's cheque. But after another ace, his 26th of the match, took him to 15-0, Rusedski delved into a murky world.

In mock protestation, Rusedski summoned a ball-girl, Victoria Lister, to rally with Krajicek, the move plainly aimed at fracturing his opponent's concentration. It worked. Detained, to much crowd banter, by a 14-stroke rally, which was comfortably the longest in the match, Krajicek then resumed — only to lose ten of the next 11 points. The two players were thus locked together at 4-4, with every prospect of a tie-break to settle a match that was firmly in Krajicek's grasp.

Krajicek's expression, when he then trailed 3-0, on serve, in the next game, told a very different story to the one that he would tell at the contest's conclusion. In the end, Krajicek, who rallied to lead 6-5, broke a flagging Rusedski to win 7-6, 6-7, 7-5 after two hours and six minutes of largely uninspiring tennis.

There was a hint of sarcasm in his voice when, in the post-match interview on court, he said: "The next time Greg is serving me off the court I know what to do: just get a ball-girl to go out and play." Later, while suggesting that Rusedski might have indulged the crowd when he trailed 40-0, rather than 15-0, Krajicek blamed himself for the lapse in concentration. "It was a rookie mistake on my part," he said. "I thought it would be OK but I shouldn't have done it."

He also revealed that, in those difficult moments, he drew on the memory of his compatriot, Menno Oosting, who was killed in a car crash last week. "I wanted to win it for Menno so badly," he said. Krajicek, seeded No 4, attended Oosting's funeral in Son, near Eindhoven, on Saturday morning before returning to London to beat Thomas Johansson in the semi-finals.

Rusedski, for his part, made light of an incident which, in contrast to the smiling cartoon character he had portrayed all week, revealed a rare glimpse of his cold, calculating mind. "It is no big deal," he insisted. "I have had it happen to me before." However, when pressed to elaborate, the man with a memory bordering on encyclopaedic could not remember. "The gambit employed by Rusedski, seeded No 3, was far from unique. Boris Becker and Andre Agassi have used it, as did Goran Ivanisevic when hopelessly outplayed by Mark Philippoussis in the 1997 final at Queen's."

Yet none resorted to it when their matches remained so delicately balanced. Rusedski's calculated set was almost certainly prompted by his unbridled desire to triumph before a domestic audience — just as he mistakenly insisted on playing Wimbledon with one sound ankle eight months ago.

There was no doubt that Krajicek deserved his victory. In the opening set he stayed with Rusedski during the Briton's only spell of dominant serving. The ensuing tie-break, the twelfth since they first squared up six years ago, was effectively settled when Krajicek conjured a stinging backhand cross-court pass to reach set point with his service to come.

From that point Rusedski appeared to labour. To his credit, he pulled the second set from the fire when, in another tie-break, Krajicek double-faulted when seemingly in the ascendancy. Opportunities were precious; when they came, they were usually neutralised by heavy serving.

In that respect, Krajicek gave Rusedski a taste of his own medicine: he dished out 30 aces to the Briton's ten. Rusedski and Tim Henman now head to California for the Newsweek Champions Cup, where Rusedski must defend 337 ranking points for reaching the final 12 months ago. Despite a stop-start first two months of the season, he has scrambled well; he should remain at No 10 when the world rankings are updated this morning. Henman is expected to stay at No 7.

Greg Rusedski gained a measure of compensation for his singles defeat by Richard Krajicek when he combined with Tim Henman to win the doubles event yesterday (Julian Muscat writes). The Great Britain pairing won in straight sets over Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, and Byron Black, of Zimbabwe.

To the delight of a vocal London crowd, Rusedski and Henman captured Black's service midway through the opening set to secure the only break in the match. They then rallied from 3-6 down in the second-set tie-break to win five successive points, and with them, the match, 6-3, 7-6.

It was the first time that the two Britons have contested a doubles tournament. Rusedski and Henman used the event to prepare for Great Britain's Davis Cup tie, against the United States, in Birmingham in April, when they are expected to renew their alliance in the doubles rubber. Rusedski never dropped service over the four matches he and Henman played here.

Henman, whose service was captured just once, said: "I think we have surprised ourselves a little bit."



Krajicek celebrates his hard-fought victory over Rusedski at Battersea yesterday

British pair double the interest

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Kleinendorst standing by Storm troopers

Alan Lee reports on the ice hockey coach who has transformed the fortunes of Britain's biggest club

Manchester's significant minority, the increasing thousands for whom there is now more to sport than Old Trafford, will be relieved to learn that the eloquent American who has given them an arresting new identity intends to finish what he started. On the morning after the biggest and most influential club in British ice hockey officially became the best, Kurt Kleinendorst was already planning new horizons for Manchester Storm.

Europe is one challenge to conquer, the nurturing of British talent another, and Kleinendorst wants to stay and see it through. The Minnesotan arrived two years ago when playing inadequacy was threatening to vanquish the grand vision in Europe's largest indoor venue. His contract as coach and general manager has only a one-year option remaining, but Kleinendorst had words of reassurance for Storm's phenomenal support. "I am happy and settled here and I have no plans to move on," he said yesterday. "There is a lot more to be achieved and it would take a special offer to get me away. I won't sort things out until the season is over, but I'm already thinking of next year."

Kleinendorst was at a Neil Diamond concert on Saturday night and emerged to hear that Cardiff Devils' forlorn pursuit of his team had ended with a 5-4 defeat at Bracknell. Manchester were champions of the Sekonda Superleague with three games still to play and the potentially dramatic fixture away to Cardiff last night was an irrelevance. Manchester led the league virtually from first to last, losing only one of 19 home games within an otherwise fiercely competitive league. Their inheritance from Ayr, who have

fallen heavily from their grand-slam exploits of a year ago, seldom seemed in doubt but, with the most lavish facility and enviable support and sponsorship, their triumph is a necessary landmark in the renaissance of the sport.

The league trophy will be presented before the home match with Nottingham on Thursday and the force of the Storm can be measured by the fact that more than 10,000 seats have already been sold. "It will be a special night," Kleinendorst said, "one of those occasions when you come out and think 'wow, that was really something.'" One such night, three weeks ago, can now be seen to have secured the title for Manchester.

Their last home game with Cardiff came with the teams level on points and the Welsh club on a roll of seven wins. More than 12,000 saw Storm win 3-1, a victory as breathless as it was priceless. There are few men in this high-octane sport more inscrutable than Kleinendorst, but even his cool veneer collapsed with the last-minute goal that confirmed the win. "I don't show my feelings much but that was the pivotal night," he said. "It was the first of six successive wins for Storm, the first in five defeats out of six for Cardiff."

Kleinendorst's assignment now is to exploit that support base and create a new generation of British players. Manchester have only one home-grown player on their staff, the supremely-gifted Jonathan Weaver, and Kleinendorst is not confident of finding more like him.

"Kinks would rather take money for public skating than encourage locals to learn hockey," he said. "We are doing all we can, with a junior section and a week-long hockey school in April, but it is the biggest challenge the game faces."

Scoring system beats Rolph

SUSAN ROLPH beat Katrin Meissner in both the 50 and 100 metres freestyle in their final outing of the winter World Cup season in Germany at the weekend, but lost the overall sprint freestyle title by an excruciating margin of two points yesterday.

In the end, the severity of Rolph's defeats compared with those suffered by Meissner during a maximum of six point-scoring rounds of the 12-event series mattered more than the fact that the British champion had won seven races to five victories for the German.

The pair met in three rounds, Rolph winning the 100 metres each time, Meissner winning the 50 metres twice but losing to Rolph on Saturday for the first time, 25.06sec

From Craig Lord in Gelsenkirchen

to 25.23sec. That she beat Meissner, 26, over 50 metres gave Rolph, 20, a great sense of satisfaction and confirmed that her winter training programme is on course to produce the success she craves at the world short-course championships in Hong Kong next month.

Yesterday's win over 100 metres, in 54.33sec, just 0.06sec up on Meissner, further confirmed Rolph's superiority as a racer. However, two victories do not a World Cup title make, accounting for 20 points, against the 14 for two

second places that took the German to 99 points, two clear of the Briton's tally.

The rivals had started the weekend eight points apart, a gap that owed much to the third and fourth place finishes that Rolph suffered behind Chinese swimmers while nursing a heavy cold in Beijing in January.

Meissner's worst finish was second place. In hindsight, Rolph would have been wiser to have opted to compete at the Canadian round of the cup instead of Beijing, but then World Cup rules do not allow entries to be switched.

As such, Rolph collected the £3,300 runner-up prize, against Meissner's £5,500, but considered herself the better swimmer beyond the eccentricities of the scoring system.

Slough fail to disrupt holder's march to title

RUSSELLSHEIMER ruined Slough's hopes of breaking their stranglehold on the event when they cruised to their sixth successive title with a comfortable 7-1 win in the final of the European indoor championship in Glasgow yesterday (Cathy Harris writes).

Although the result was emphatic, Slough turned in a gritty performance and were rarely outplayed. The difference was in the superior skill and quality of the finishing, with Russellshiemer racing to a 4-0 lead before Sarah Kellcher made it 4-1 at half-time.

Slough's tentative display in the semi-final against Siauliai, the Lithuanian champions — where they were forced to recover from a 2-0 deficit before winning 4-2 —

did not bode well. With a squad of only nine fit players, the rigours of the tournament were bound to take their toll on the likes of Mandy Nicholson, Sue Chandler, Kelleber and Jane Smith, the competition's leading goalscorer.

Britta Becker, the Russellshiemer captain, scored twice along with Tanja Dickenscheld.

In the women's National League premier division, Doncaster, who sit at the bottom of the table, caused the first big upset of the season when they defeated the depleted leaders, Ipswich. First-half goals by Sally Wright and Carol Savage and a penalty-corner goal six minutes from time, from Claire Ferguson, steered Doncaster to victory.

Reading use home advantage

HOCKEY

By Sydney Friskin

READING responded to their home supporters yesterday by shooting their way to a 5-2 victory over Canterbury and a place in the semi-finals of the EHA Cup.

Humphries had cut Reading's lead to 3-1 early in the second half, but two quick goals by Briscoe and Pearn restored their superiority. The absence of Hacker, through injury, made a big difference to Canterbury who lacked inspiration in their midfield.

Before they could settle down they were two goals down, Barnes from a short corner, and Loose scoring for Reading. Then, two minutes before the interval, their plight worsened when Slay converted a penalty stroke. A goal from a short corner by Mathews just before the end

was small consolation for Canterbury. Cannock, the holders, secured their place in the last four with a 4-3 home win over Lewes, of the first division. Edwards scored two goals from short corners for Cannock and Waters hit the target twice for Lewes from open play.

A goal by Thompson in the last minute from a short corner enabled Old Loughtonians to defeat Teddington 3-2. He had scored earlier to add to the first goal by Scott Smith. Wallis scored both goals for Teddington.

The final place in the semi-finals was taken by Southgate with an 8-3 victory over Hounslow, who trailed 7-1 at half-time. Grice was the only player to score twice for Southgate, but he could have been joined by Kwan Browne, of Trinidad, who missed a penalty stroke after scoring in the eighth minute.

It was a disappointing weekend for Canterbury who dropped from second to third position in the National League premier division after a 3-3 draw at home against Hounslow on Saturday.

Reading were out-gunned by Cannock, who, despite the absence of Crutchley, their injured sharp-shooter, went away with a 2-0 victory with goals by Pidcock and Hughes-Rowlands.

LEGAL PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT

MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS

DUNLOP
ACCEPT NO LIMITS

FA Carling Premiership: Charlton frustrated by inability to steal a march on bottom club

Kidd faces up to novel predicament

WHEN Brian Kidd, the Blackburn Rovers manager, was the assistant manager at Old Trafford, he knew that the buck stopped with Alex Ferguson. Now Kidd is a manager in his own right, and it is up to him to deal with all the usual problems of injury, suspension and loss of form, as well as one that Ferguson did not have to face — the fear of relegation.

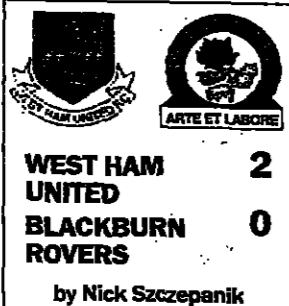
On Saturday, Blackburn dropped back into the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership, and their third defeat in 11 league games since Kidd took over contained some worrying elements. Against a West Ham United team whose recent record was little better than theirs, Rovers were awful in the first half — in Kidd's own words, cautious and apprehensive — and unlucky in the second. Add a long injury list and you have an ominous combination.

Or do you? "If I didn't know the problems, then I would have a problem," Kidd said. "But I've identified them. At the moment, it's out of my control. It's a crippling injury situation, plus the disciplinary record has been poor."

On Saturday, absences forced Kidd to field a team which, he admitted, included a number of square pegs in round holes, in a formation that handed the home team the freedom of the wings, which became evident when Paolo Di Canio crossed for Ian Pearce to head the opening goal after 28 minutes.

Without Billy McKinlay and Garry Flitcroft, the Blackburn midfield also allowed Eyal Berkovic too much leeway, and he took a return pass from Frank Lampard four minutes later before teeing up Di Canio for his first goal since joining West Ham.

Rovers staged a second-half rally, but a combination of poor finishing from Ashley



WEST HAM UNITED 2
BLACKBURN ROVERS 0

by Nick Szczepanik

Ward and excellent saves by Shaka Hislop allowed West Ham to hold out and claim sixth place in the table.

Eighteenth place is unfamiliar territory for Kidd, but he believes that he can deal with the predicament. "Working under Alex Ferguson, I've seen pressure situations," he said. "We've had a tough two weeks game-wise, prior to that, we've done OK. It isn't all doom and gloom." Nor does pressure to replace injured players with stop-gap signings, a solution he rejects on principle, although it leaves unanswered the question of the yawning gap in central midfield.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, expressed surprise at Blackburn's position, but preferred to enthuse over the performance of his own team. "When you have got people like Berkovic and Di Canio, and you get into good movement and passing, and a few things are coming off, little flicks and one-twos, I think they enjoy it," Redknapp said. With half a squad on the treatment table and very little coming off, Kidd might have pointed out that it is not so much fun.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2) S Hislop — I Pearce, R Edwards, S Pires — S Lumsden, E Berridge, M V Fox, F Lampard, M Keller — Sinclair, P Di Canio
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3) J Flann — J McAleer, D Pearson, M Brown, C Davidson — K Gillespie, D Dunn (sub), G Croft, S Brown, J Wilson (sub), D Duff, S D. — M Jensen (sub), K Davies, S O' — A Ward, N Blake
Referee: S O'Connell

Crossley keeps Forest afloat



Crossley salutes the visiting Nottingham Forest supporters after winning a point for his team with a series of brilliant saves, including one from Redfearn's penalty kick

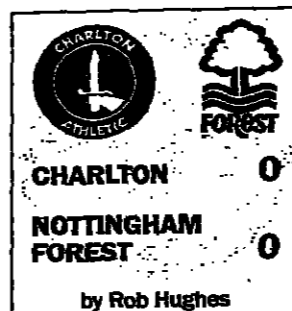
SOMETIMES, the scoreline lies. At a glance you might assume this was a pit of gloom or that Charlton Athletic and Nottingham Forest were equal in relegation mediocrity. Not true. Charlton are better than that. The people of SE7 still exude a joy at being back in their cavernous home, and on Saturday, night, with sunshine, the Valley vibrated to the sound of samba and steel bands and was filled by faces painted red, white and black in response to their club's sixth annual anti-racist day.

Here, not far from where Stephen Lawrence was murdered, was sport in a broader perspective. As the music played, colour came back into a career once thought lost to fearful injury. Mark Crossley learnt at a 12.45pm that his day had come. Almost two years after he last played in the FA Carling Premiership, after a double hernia, a back ailment and then the reliable form of his replacement, Crossley heard his name first on the Forest team-sheet. Approaching 30, he may be, but nerves set in.

Across the dressing-room the looming figure of Dave Beasant, Forest's first-choice goalkeeper last season and this, came towards him. "Dave said we shouldn't let this come between us," Crossley said, "he said we have such a good relationship, there are no hard feelings whatsoever."

Crossley stepped into a team that had conceded 13 goals in three matches, and put a stop to that. The defence, still, was porous, the entire Forest side was overcast, and Crossley admitted it was more likely to be relegated than not. Yet with five magnificent saves, and a penalty shot to boot, Crossley defied Charlton single-handedly. Stretching high, swooping low, obviously agile and seemingly calm, he is again an athlete without pain and without doubt that he can stand tall before a full house.

Indeed, because of him, Charlton's home became the valley of frustration. The goalkeeper, abetted by woeful missed opportunities, could yet cost Charlton dear in the



CHARLTON 0
NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0

by Rob Hughes

final reckoning. Their spirit is extraordinary, their own defence unbreached during February. But they are without a home game for five weeks, in part because the Tottenham Hotspur fixture is postponed because of the Worthington Cup final, and how much better it would have been to travel after an emphatic victory.

The penalty in the 70th minute crystallised what happened. John Robinson, one of any number of red-shirted Charlton players working like ants to try to break the deadlock, was bodychecked by Steve Chettle just inside the penalty area. Redfearn did what he has done 39 times, placed the ball on the penalty spot and hit

High life 3
Rising prices 6
Palace profit 30

it. But Crossley is not entirely a novice against penalties.

He is the only man ever to stop a Matthew Le Tissier penalty, he is the goalkeeper who stopped Gary Lineker from the penalty spot during the 1991 FA Cup Final. He reads the signs, makes up his mind, and throws himself on fortune.

"I always guess with penalties," he said. "With a right-footed player (like Redfearn) it's likely that he will try to put the ball across the keeper, so I went that way." He hurled his 6ft, 15-stone plus frame low to his right and, because Redfearn's shot was accurate but tentative, the save was easier than Crossley's dive to a similar spot five minutes later

when Redfearn, this time uncharacteristically with his left boot, was repelled by the finger tips of the goalkeeper's glove.

Redfearn was one of two Charlton players who could have had a hat-trick. The other was Martin Pringle, the former military man from Sweden whose elusive front-running and deft touch have given Charlton new options and new hope. On Saturday, however, Pringle misused a gaping chance after four minutes and never regained composure. Pringle wants a permanent home rather than the Kent hotel room that he shares with his wife and four-week-old son, Hugo.

What was surprising was that a fellow guest at the hotel, John Barnes, was at not invited to show whether his flair could be decisive. The former Newcastle United and Liverpool player got no closer than the warm-up track, and may as well have spent the afternoon babysitting for the Pringles, a role he has volunteered on the lonely nights in Bexleyheath. But while Forest — with Steve Stone and Pierre van Hooijdonk no better than the team they seek to abandon — brought just one save from Simon Royce, Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said: "The team was playing well, and I didn't need to change things and risk getting beat."

Caution, in the end, weighed on Charlton. What Ron Atkinson, the Forest Messiah, thought, we may never know. A manager built by public image, Big Ron shunned the obligation to face the media. It left Crossley, a Forest man from his school days, saying: "Even if we go down, my ambition is to stay in the team, and grab my Welsh place back. It's great to be fit and to get the chance."

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (3-5-2) S Royce — D Mills, S Brown, C Tier — J Robinson, M Williams, N Redfern, K Jones, C Powell — A Hunt (sub), C Marcondes, T James, M Pringle
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2) M Crossley — S Edwards, T Brown, S Stone, M Lowe-Jones, S Stone, C Palmer, S Dorrill (sub), N Chiswick, T Jones, S Stone — J C Beattie (sub), N Shepperson, S P. van Hooijdonk
Referee: S Lodge

Gascoigne dims memory with secondary role



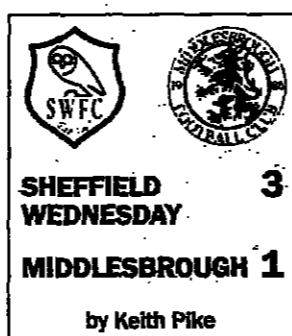
Di Canio joyfully celebrates his first goal for West Ham

THE only two things that can be said with any certainty about Paolo Gascoigne are that (a) he will never again be the player he once was, and (b) he never was quite the player he might have been. If Kevin Keegan really is serious about making his first step as England coach a backward one by seeking one last burst of light from a faded star, then he might just as well go the whole hog and ask Sir Bobby Charlton to get his boots back on.

Even as he runs down to the

Post Office to pick up his pension, Charlton would have as much chance of recreating one of those trademark, body-swinging bursts away from an opponent and into scoring range as Gascoigne does today. The brain may still be able to work out the logistics of such a manoeuvre, but the legs and lungs are incapable of carrying it out.

Gascoigne has, by all accounts, been playing tolerably well of late in a Middlesbrough team that is collectively suffering from a terminal shortage of confidence, goals, points and, on this occasion, luck. But his contribution at Hillsborough was restricted to a handful of short and safe passes — and not even all of



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 3
MIDDLESBROUGH 1

by Keith Pike

them were successful — an ambitious volley that almost cleared the Kop, a pointed disagreement with a colleague and a booking, his twelfth of the season, for an early (ten-minute) late (as in the ball had gone) and studs-up challenge

on Sonner. In short, it was a mess. Keegan could summon any one of a number of mid-field journeymen from any division he fancies and be guaranteed much the same level of performance without the risk of a red card.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, defended his man, citing a sore knee and overzealous refereeing, but was forced to confess that he had taken Gascoigne off at half-time to avoid Mike Riley, the Leeds official, doing the job for him. Now it is the point that Middlesbrough were an immeasurably better team for Gascoigne's departure.

So, if not Gazza for England, how about Wednesday

for Europe? No chance, despite the impressive run of form that has taken them into the top half of the table. For 20 invigorating minutes, during which Carbone was wonderfully inventive and Rudolf a particular menace on the left wing, they looked like a team blending nicely.

In the end, though, they were battered by the victory, never mind the margin of it. Booth's near-post finish, was scant reward for Wednesday's early supremacy, but Middlesbrough would have been at least level by half-time had Back not been spectacularly denied by Pressman, then missed a sitter of a volley, and had Pallister not found the bar with a thumping header.

Three goals in as many second-half minutes decided the points in favour of the home team. Sonner broke Middlesbrough's stranglehold by meeting Jonk's cross with the header it deserved, Mustoe scrambled through to reply, then Booth headed in Rudolf's free kick from close range. Gascoigne later found his way to the players' lounge. The route to Wembley and Poland on March 27 should be cordoned off.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2) K Pressman — P Alvanon, D Walker, E Thomas, A Hinchcliffe — N Alexander, W. Back, D Sonner, P Rudolf — S Carbone, A Booth
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2) M Schwarzer — S Scudamore, C Hamilton, S. Jones, C. Connor, S. Vickers, G. P. Foster, D. Gordon — R. Mustoe, P. Gascoigne (sub), N. Macdonald, A. B. Townsend — M. Back, H. Rudolf
Referee: M. Riley

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3.30%	N/A	£2,000 +	2.80%	N/A
3.50%	N/A	£5,000 +	3.00%	N/A
3.50%	N/A	£7,500 +	3.00%	N/A
3.70%	N/A	£10,000 +	3.20%	N/A
4.10%	N/A	£25,000 +	3.60%	N/A
4.40%	N/A	£50,000 +	3.90%	N/A
4.40%	N/A	£100,000 +	3.90%	N/A
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Inclusive of loyalty bonus				
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5.00%	N/A	£5,000 +	4.50%	N/A
6.00%	N/A	£10,000 +	5.50%	N/A
Privilege Account introductory bonus rate.				
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6.00%	N/A	£10,000 +	5.50%	N/A

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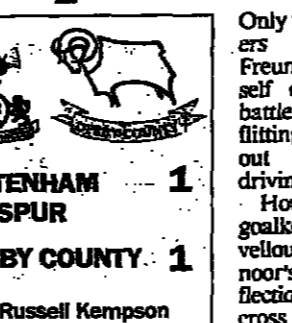
Influence of Graham fails to inspire victory

A FAIR sign of a club's well-being can be found outside its ground on match day. Supporters mill around in anticipation, street traders sell their wares with ease and the ticket touts have a spring in their step. Everyone wants a piece of the action; success on the pitch breeds success on the streets.

On Saturday afternoon, Tottenham High Road was alive. "Wembley 99" banners and T-shirts were all the rage and the banner flowed and glowed in the direction of George Graham, the former demon of Arsenal but now saviour of White Hart Lane. Tottenham Hotspur had reached the final of the Worthington Cup, the quarter-finals of the FA Cup and were undefeated in 14 matches. Long gone were the dark, dismal days of Gerry Francis and Christian Gross — Graham's predecessors — the players had rediscovered their zest for life and the fans were no longer disenchanted.

It took only 30 minutes of an essentially lifeless first half for reality to kick in. Tottenham had, unconvincedly, dominated a tepid FA Carling Premiership encounter with Derby County and Graham, seated in his directors' box, had had enough. Hardly had he arrived in the dugout before he was urging the strikers on to greater effort and goading his troops into the firing line.

Fifty-six seconds into the second half, the Tottenham of old — lazy minds, poor concentration, slack marking — returned to haunt them. Dorog's quick free kick was nodded on by Vanehope for Burton to slide the ball home from close range. Graham's renowned powers of organisation and motivation appeared to have fallen on deaf ears.



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1
DERBY COUNTY 1

by Russell Kempson

Only then did his players respond, with Freund flinging himself devilish-like into battle, Ginola at last flitting more in than out and Sherwood driving forward.

Hoult, the Derby goalkeeper, saved marvelously from Schuster's inadvertent deflection of Ginola's cross and also did well to push Anderson's piledriver on to the crossbar. He could do nothing, though, to prevent the equaliser, when Dominguez, the substitute, released Sherwood to conjure a precisely measured shot. The real Tottenham, under Graham, had finally emerged and they could have won again a frenzied, often bizarre, conclusion. As Tottenham battered away at the Derby goal, Burton was booked for failing to leave the pitch to remove his dangling neck chain and Edinburgh was sent off for his second bookable offence, a mistimed tackle on Harper. Perhaps Vanehope should have gone, too, for his lunge at Tarico.

The jigsaw is taking shape and another piece will be slotted into place tomorrow when Stewart Houston, Graham's former assistant at Highbury, leaves Ipswich Town to join him. Chris Hughton, having diligently worked his way up to No 2 over a period of six years, will return to the shadows as just another coach. He put on a brave face. "George and Stewart had an excellent partnership and I'm looking forward to working with them," he said.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) Walker — M. Taylor, R. Vane, S. Campbell, D. Burrows — D. Anderson, S. Freund, J. Sheppard, D. Ginola — S. Hughton, C. Ashstrong (sub), J. Dominguez, S. Martin
DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2) R. Hoult — J. Larsson, H. Cartwright, S. Schuster — S. Eadie (sub), S. Price, A. J. Carls, L. Bonner, A. Dorog (sub), K. Harper, T. Burton — F. Bullock (sub), J. Hunt, T. P. Vanehope
Referee: J. Winter

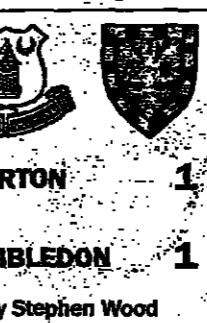
Jeffers shows Smith he is man enough for task

FRANCIS JEFFERS is bony of body but stony of mind. At the age of 18, when nature and a selection of gym equipment has had little time to carve out a physique that can repel the defensive warhorses of the FA Carling Premiership, it is the mental prowess that separates growing men from the boys. That is why Everton, despite all their cautionary tales, believe Jeffers is a special player.

Jeffers' education in the game developed from a hero-worship of Andy Gray, the former Everton striker, even though he was only four when Gray last kicked a ball for the club, to shining at the Football Association's School of Excellence at Liffeshall. Goals have flowed at all levels but, such has been the chronic state of Everton this season that, Walter Smith, the manager, has tried to protect Jeffers from the depression surrounding the side.

It required, therefore, words rather than actions for Smith to give in to temptation. Initially, Smith, who only joined Everton last summer, was told by the staff at the club, who had seen Jeffers progress, that "young Francis could handle the pressures of the first team". From Jeffers himself came confirmation that he was ready. "I've played in front of 70,000 people for England schoolboys in Germany, so I didn't see why 35,000 at Goodison would be such a problem," he said.

And so it has proved. He scored his first league goal against Wimbledon on Saturday, a neat header to earn his team-mates a valuable point as their attempt to climb clear of relegation trouble continued. Danny Cadamarteri, Jeffers' teenage strike partner,



EVERTON 1
WIMBLEDON 1

by Stephen Wood

supplied the cross for the goal and deserves special praise. For it was Cadamarteri who embraced the physical duties that Jeffers, to an extent, had to negate.

Smith commended the pair's contribution to the afternoon, but he is not a man to over-indulge. "Young players are a surprise for people," Smith wrote in the match programme. "In the weeks to come, Francis will face different challenges for him." Smith will be grateful when Hutchinson returns from suspension, and overjoyed if he can persuade Kevin Campbell, from Trabzonspor, or Michael Mols, a striker from Holland, to sign for the club.

However, in response to Smith's wariness, Jeffers' mature attitude is evident once again. "All I wanted was a chance," he said. "I'm not going to be a hero at 18. I'm confident in my ability, but I will never forget where I have come from, or where I'm at now."

Dave Watson, the Everton defender, misjudged a ball that caught in the wind to allow Efan Ekoku to open the scoring for Wimbledon after 14 minutes for the visitors' first goal in six matches.

Thereafter, their paucity of ideas suggested there could be another long wait until the next one. Instead, it was Everton who pressed for a winner, and could have had a penalty when Hughes appeared to trip Barton, the home side's substitute.

EVERTON (4-4-2) T. Maffeo — D. Watt, D. Watson, M. Mols, D. Unwin — J. O'Leary (sub), M. Branch, S. Brown, O. Sheppard, M. Ball, N. Barry — D. Cadamarteri, J. Jeffers
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2) N. Sullivan — C. Cunningham, C. Remy, D. Blackmore, B. Thatcher — J. Elliott (sub), N. Ardley, S. A. Roberts, R. Ellis, M. Hughes — E. Ekoku, M. Gylfe
Referee: N. Barry

Nationwide League: Bradford rise while Goldberg's popularity sinks in victory

Jewell revels in thrill of the chase

Bradford City.....1
West Bromwich Albion.....0

By PAT GIBSON

CRAZY. Paul Jewell, the Bradford City manager, called it. Strange. Denis Smith, his West Bromwich Albion counterpart, concurred. They were talking about the Nationwide League first division in which no fewer than eleven clubs are still clinging to the hope that they can join Sunderland, the runaway leaders, in the FA Carling Premiership next season.

Jewell's remark was prompted by the news of Bolton Wanderers' 3-1 home defeat by the bottom club, Crewe Alexandra, which had allowed Bradford to sneak back into the

Results and tables.....32
Lynne Truss.....35

second automatic promotion position, behind Sunderland. "That sort of thing can happen in this division," he said.

Smith's comment was in support of his contention that West Bromwich can still win a place in the play-offs, despite the fact that they have now taken only one point from their past four games and dropped to ninth.

"Everybody is hearing one another," he said. "We've had a bad month and it's not done us the world of good. It has made life extremely difficult, but it isn't over yet. I've just told my players that it's only March. The season finishes in May."

Bradford did not need reminding of that but there is a growing belief at Valley Parade that they are on their way back to the top division of English football for the first time since the 1921-22 season.

They have been beaten only once in their past 13 league games and Jewell reflected his pleasure in the way they are churning out results in his chipper, Scouse way. "I'm

glad we're out of our slump," he said. "Two draws and a victory. Terrible."

Bradford still have a long way to go if they are to compete on a regular basis with the club that was relegated with them 77 years ago — it just happened to be Manchester United — but, on Saturday, they showed a similar facility for winning games without playing as fluently as they can.

There were valid reasons for that. They were without the influential Beagrie on the left because of injury and when their other winger, Lawrence, went off in the 17th minute with a bad back, they had to split their prolific striking partnership of Mills and Blake to retain their shape.

There was an unexpected bonus, however. Jewell pushed Jacobs, normally a left back, into a left-sided midfield position in place of Beagrie and was able to claim afterwards, albeit with tongue firmly in cheek, "an inspired change of tactics by the manager. I always knew he could play left wing."

Apart from that, Jacobs scored the goal, after only two minutes, to upset West Bromwich's pre-match plan to pack their midfield in order to make themselves more solid in defence. Sneekes conceded a foul on the right and, when Whalley's free kick was headed out, Jacobs' shot was deflected past a wrong-footed Whitehead.

Bradford seemed to have scored a second goal in the 25th minute when Mills turned in Rankin's low cross, but it was belatedly ruled out for offside and, for all the excellence of McCall and Whalley in midfield, their nerves were beginning to fray when Rankin squandered two second-half chances.

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — A O'Brien, D Moore, A Wainwright (sub J Dwyer, 84 mins), L Todd — J Lawrence (sub J Rankin, 17 mins), S McCall, G Whalley, W Jacobs, R Blake, L Mills.
WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-5-1): P Whitehead — P Holmes, S Maphu, D Burgess, J Van Buren, M Angell, M Bonnici (sub J Dwyer, 87), A O'Brien (sub J Dwyer, 84), R Sneekes, A Kilbane — L Hughes.
Referee: R Pearson



Mullins, left, turns away in celebration with Morrison, centre, after giving Crystal Palace the lead at Selhurst Park.

Crystal Palace.....1
Barnsley.....0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

MANY Crystal Palace supporters travelled to Selhurst Park yesterday with one aim in mind: to heckle Mark Goldberg, the chairman, and voice their dismay at his troubled eight-month stewardship of the Nationwide League first division club. They left a few disgruntled chants and taken protests later, in buoyant mood, having witnessed Palace's first victory since Boxing Day.

The expected mass calling for Goldberg's head did not materialise. The fans' anger may yet resurface, not to mention that of the players. They did not receive their monthly wages on Friday and will wait with trepidation until Wednesday, when Goldberg has promised to pay up from his personal funds. That the value of his shares in his computer company recently slumped from its £10 million "comfort zone" to little more than £2 million does not augur well.

Goldberg remained upbeat amid the discontent. "Maybe my biggest mistake was my

Mullins gives Palace rebels cause to smile

ambition," he said. "I thought too big too quickly. I can understand why the fans are angry but it doesn't help to fight with me. It's the time to unite, not fight." Steve Coppell, once again called into the breach after the departure of Terry Venables, the Palace coach, six weeks ago, has seen it all before.

"I think it's part of the Palace fans' mentality," he said. "They love to suffer the torture. I'm just glad we didn't play brilliantly and win 5-0 because some of my players might have been sold."

"We had all kinds of excuses — the strong wind, the state of the pitch, the chairman's problems and not being paid. I'm just happy we got a scrappy win. The players are philosophical about it all and, in the circumstances,

they did a thoroughly professional job."

Palace won in ugly fashion but perhaps were due a slice of good fortune. Barnsley, with one eye on their FA Cup quarter-final against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, had hardly contributed to an awful spectacle when they experienced a bizarre series of injuries shortly before half-time.

Moses was the first to go after colliding with Jones, his teammate, and sustaining a gashed head that required eight stitches. Appleby, his replacement, went seven minutes later with a suspected cracked pelvis — his fall possibly caused by the uneven surface — and Sheridan failed to reappear after the interval because of a dislocated jaw. Of the three, only Moses might recover to play Tottenham.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K Miller — G Potts, C Moore, A Langan — J Smith, S Thompson (sub S Evans, 80 mins), H Mullins, C Foster, Sun Jial — C Morrison, Fan Zhixi (sub L Morrison, 73).
BARNSEY (4-4-2): A Bullock — N Eaden, A De Zeeuw, S Jones, C Beadmore — A Moses (sub M Appleby, 37, sub M Bullock, 44), K Richardson, C Wright, D Sheridan (sub D Goodwin, 48) — S Dyer, M Shawan.
Referee: M Haley.

Francis goes Continental via North Sea

Grimsby Town.....0
Birmingham City.....3

By MARTIN WOODS

TREVOR FRANCIS introduced a little bit of Serie A artistry to the North Sea alloument that is Blundell Park when his Birmingham City side gave a masterclass in the art of defending to erode further the tantalising prospect of Gianluca Viali and company.

Every year, the Premiership entertains a club from the wrong side of the tracks before showing it the door. Alan Buckley's Grimsby Town would trump any of the disadvantages held by previous incumbents of the top division's trapdoor. Even among the candidates for a play-off place, Grimsby revel in the role of rank outsiders. However, if points were awarded for a manager's disarming honesty, automatic promotion would beckon. "I thought we were second best," Buckley said. "They deserved to beat us."

Beaten previously only twice at Blundell Park this season by sides, as Francis pointed out, just departed the Premiership, Grimsby are a formidable proposition at home. So Saturday's 3-0 verdict intimates the growing validity of Birmingham's claim on an automatic promotion spot. "They are the best I've seen for a while," Buckley said.

Birmingham's masterful defence, marshalled by Gary Rowett, laid the foundation for victory in the first half when they withstood everything Grimsby threw at them before taking the lead nine minutes before the break.

The goal was a reminder of how the Zimbabwe international Peter Ndlovu once illuminated the top flight. Taking possession just outside the right of the Grimsby box, the former Coventry City striker twisted and turned Lever and Smith before unleashing a shot through the crowded area into the right-hand corner of the net.

For all Grimsby's monopoly on possession, their neat, intricate passing game too often foundered on the rock of Rowett and Johnson.

If Grimsby's primary fault was over-elaboration, Birmingham derived their ascendancy from concentrated simplicity. O'Connor, the captain, and Hyde were instrumental in maintaining their side's advantage as Grimsby redoubled their efforts after the break. However, their prospects were undermined as Lever did not reappear and Buckley was forced to deploy Groves, his captain, as a makeshift centre half.

When Hughes dribbled clean through the right side of the home defence before shooting straight at the goalkeeper, Davison, a quarter of an hour into the half, it confirmed City's growing sense of superiority. They had drawn Grims-

BOB TAYLOR equalled the all-time goalscoring record for the third division of English football with all five goals as Gillingham demolished Burnley 5-0 at Turf Moor. Taylor scored four times in the first half before adding his fifth three minutes after the break.

by's sting and 1-0 was not going to satisfy them.

Francis proved his theory that a spurned striker is a dangerous one five minutes before the end when the substitute, Dele Adedola, turned Smith outside the box before stroking the ball wide of the outstretched Davison. Rowett then rose above the home defence to head home, like a bullet, Hughes's corner. "We just don't throw a back four together," Francis said. "We do a lot of hard work on the training ground."

GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-2): A Dawson — J McDermott, R Smith, M Lever (sub M Bell, 68 mins), T Johnson — D O'Connor, C Collock (sub T Woodington, 64), P Groves, K Black — L Nogan (sub D Clark, 68), A Lever.
BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Pools — J Bass, G Rowett, M Johnson, S Charlton (sub J McCarthy, 78) — M Goss, M O'Connor, G Hyde, P Hughes — P Farrow (sub R Foster, 59), P Ndlovu (sub D Adedola, 71).
Referee: D Lyons.

Houston leaves Wright on top

Bristol City.....0
Ipswich Town.....1

By DAVID POWELL

JUST as surely as Stewart Houston is leaving Ipswich Town, so luck is deserting Bristol City. Bristol had not so much the lion's share of the chances as enough to feed an entire jungle, but Richard Wright, Ipswich's England Under-21 goalkeeper, proved unbeatable.

Ipswich moved up one place to third in the Nationwide League first division with their twentieth clean sheet. "How long have we been saying that Richard is the finest young keeper in the country and it was there to be seen again today?" George Burley, the Ipswich manager, observed.

Wright's best moment was a double block from Locke's drive and Alkin's follow-up, but he would not be persuaded

into admiring his own work. "In training every day we work on things like that," Wright, 21, said. He is sorry to lose Houston, whose last game as coach this was before joining Tottenham Hotspur. "He had been a great influence on me," Wright said.

Houston is teaming up with George Graham, with whom he had a successful partnership at Arsenal. After the game, when Houston brought the players back out to warm down, they good-naturedly wrestled him to the ground. In return, he left them with a flea in their ear. "Ipswich have to be better on Tuesday against Watford," Houston said. "We cannot go on playing the way we did today."

John Gorman, assistant to the former England coach, Glenn Hoddle, raised speculation that he was to be Houston's successor by his presence in the stands. Asked the question, Burley did not deny it. A 55th-minute goal by Richard Naylor

gave Ipswich their thirteenth point from five matches and added to the bad luck being dealt out to Bristol City.

In a bleak February, they have lost to a disputed 90th-minute goal against Sunderland, enjoyed the better of the chances against Queens Park Rangers and Ipswich, without winning, had three points snatched away from them in the nineteenth minute against West Bromwich Albion, and lost two key players, Tistimeanu and Bell, to injury for the rest of the season.

On Saturday, after the final whistle, a radio commentator suggested that City were not dead and buried yet. After two wins in 18 matches, they are almost being buried alive.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Phillips — L Carey, M Shaw, V Sebest, J Brennan — S Anderson, A Locke, R Edwards (sub M Hill, 70 mins), A Brown — A Alkin, S Torpey.
IPSWICH TOWN (5-5-2): R Wright — M Tistimeanu, M Walters, M Thomas, A Mowbray, M Vane — F White (sub M Stoddard, 48), K Dyer, J Morris, M Holland, J Chapman — R Naylor, M Harwood (sub R Potts, 62).
Referee: B Knight.

Wigan maintain promotion drive

Macclesfield Town.....0
Wigan Athletic.....1

By A CORRESPONDENT

GIANT strides have been taken by Macclesfield Town over these past two seasons but a small step backwards seems inevitable now after their latest home defeat that leaves them rooted at the foot of the Nationwide League second division.

Even the Macclesfield faithful, who have followed the club from the Conference to their present status, appeared to accept that the chill wind blowing across the tiny South Cheshire ground was an ill omen. Lack of money and a rise to prominence that has come too quickly was the general opinion.

Despite their position and the state of the Moss Rose pitch, Sammy McIlroy, the Macclesfield manager, remained pragmatic. "The pitch is a disgrace but it's the same for both sides," he said. His task is now to lift his team for the home derby match with Stoke City, another team in poor form, tomorrow.

Macclesfield's performance in the first half was desperate, but the goal by Wigan Athletic that decided the contest was derived from cruel luck.

David Lee's sixth-minute floating cross from the right

wing gained altitude and speed on the stiff north-easterly and eluded Ryan Price's frantic efforts to backpedal in time to make the save.

Although the home side rallied after half-time, by then Wigan's defensive lines, expertly shored up by Colin Greenall, their centre back, were well established. Wigan have now lost just two of their past 21 matches. Financed by David Whelan, the chairman of JJB Sports, they will open next season in a new £30 million stadium and it may yet be a debut in the first division.

If that target is to be attained, Simon Haworth, Wigan's record signing, will surely need to be fully fit to provide impetus to a promotion drive.

He joined colleagues who had not played on Saturday for a gentle jog around the pitch after the match. Since Haworth, formerly of Coventry City, signed for £600,000 last October, he has been troubled by hamstring problems. Ray Mathias, the Wigan manager, can afford not to rush his return.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — S Hibben, S Payne, S Soth, R Ingram — S Sedgwick, N Sorell (sub G Tomlinson, 69), S Davies (sub S Wood, 54) — J Askey, R Mead.
WIGAN ATHLETIC (5-3-2): R Carron — C Sheehan, P McGibbon, C Gurney, S Barker, R Sharp — D Lee, P Rogers, M O'Neill.
Referee: J Kirby.

Sombre Southend learn facts of life

Cambridge United.....3
Southend United.....0

By ANDY STEPHENS

SOUTHEND United provided proof at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday that statistics are like a bikini. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital. Alvin Martin's side won more corners than Cambridge United, had as many shots on target as them, twice hit the woodwork and created the easiest goalscoring opportunity of the afternoon — yet were still soundly beaten.

Cambridge, inspired by those invisible virtues of spirit and self-belief, were good value for their success. They displayed a much more acute killer instinct and, aided by two goals from John Taylor, won comfortably to stay on course for promotion from the Nationwide League third division.

Southend should have taken the lead in the 42nd minute, when Unger found himself with only the goalkeeper to beat. He shot feebly wide, though, and his distress was multiplied on the stroke of half-time when Taylor chested down a pass from Martin Butler and hit a 25-yard left-foot volley that flew inside the far post.

The visiting team pressed hard for an equaliser in the

second half, but Cambridge were not exactly resting on their laurels and it came as no surprise when Butler, the man of the match, doubled their advantage in the 74th minute. Five minutes later Taylor, in splendid isolation, clipped the advancing Margeson to complete the scoring.

This victory leaves Cambridge one point behind Cardiff City, the leaders, with the luxury of a game in hand. However, the word promotion is best whispered in the vicinity of Roy McFarland, their manager. "We are still a million miles from the second division," he said. "I believe in the old Liverpool adage of the season not starting until Easter — when you know exactly what you've got to do."

In contrast, Southend, relegated for the past two seasons, languish in eighth place. It seems remarkable that it was only three years ago that they were more than holding their own in the first division — winning 3-0 away to Charlton Athletic and doing the double over Leicester City. Those statistics take some swallowing these days.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-4-2): Aven Housden — G Cheney, A Durrant, M Joseph, Campbell — R Mutton, P Williams, J Taylor (sub R Walker, 67), M Butler.
SOUTHEND UNITED (5-3-2): M Margeson — Stuart, M Bosc, B Hunter, R Newman, S Coleman (sub P Thompson, 73) — K Maher, L Unger, S Houghton — B Jordan, M Pugh (sub A Burns, 73).
Referee: D Clark.

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Oliver Holt says Manchester United must exploit fragile opponents



Zamorano, right, the Internazionale forward, receives treatment for a shoulder injury during the four meeting with Juventus at the San Siro. Photograph: Claudio Villa / Allsport

The designers are bringing their collections to Milan this week, but Internazionale will be out of town. Ronaldo, Roberto Baggio, Youri Djorkaeff and the rest have business to attend to in Manchester, a million miles from the carnivals, but anyway, in Italy at least, they have already gone out of fashion.

As they regrouped at their rural retreat at Appiano Gentile in the shadow of the Alps yesterday, Inter were busy trying to rid themselves of the haunting memories of their four goalless draw with Juventus at the San Siro on Saturday night so that they can leave for Manchester tomorrow with delusions of optimism. By the end of a game that was notable only for its almost continuous stream of schoolboy errors and utter lack of invention, movement and flair, Inter's long-suffering supporters were huffing their programmes onto the pitch from the upper tiers of the stadium.

If they had been at the Nou Camp, they would have waved white handkerchiefs. Their players tried to put a brave face on it all. They said they would be a different team in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final at Old Trafford on Wednesday. They said they were happy with the way they had played against a Juventus side that is itself a pale imitation of the team that has beset the European game in recent years.

The reality, though, is that their problems are mounting. They are a club close to disarray, teetering on the edge of crisis and lacking direction and belief. Ronaldo, upon whom they seem to have become dependent in attack, did not even make the bench on Saturday

Inter look designed for heavy beating

and it is almost inconceivable that he will start the tie in Manchester. This unhappy bunch of superstars, in short, is exactly what United have been waiting for.

There will never be a better chance for the side that Alex Ferguson has built to break through the psychological barrier of never having eliminated a leading European power from the competition that has become their obsession. At last, they are playing another elite side at exactly the right time.

Inter's draw with Juventus left them 13 points adrift of Lazio, the Serie A leaders, and languishing in sixth place. They have won only three of

their nine games this year, each against sides struggling close to the bottom of the table. They have only won away from the San Siro twice all season. They are desperate to coax Ronaldo back to fitness after a two-month absence nursing his injured knee, but he only began gentle training last Wednesday and the most that Mircea Lucescu, Inter's embattled interim coach, can hope for is that he might be able to use him as a substitute at Old Trafford.

Without the Brazilian, Inter's attack lacks a focus for the intelligent promptings of Baggio. Djorkaeff hardly got a kick on Saturday, playing wide on the right, and Ivan

Zamorano charged around to little effect down the centre. For all the talk of how Jaap Stam and Ronny Johnsen would be exposed by the pace of the Italian side, that looks like cheap talk now that Ronaldo seems unlikely to feature. If Stam, as seems probable, recovers from his hamstring injury, he has nothing to fear from Zamorano. It was not all the fault of the attack. They received precious little service from a midfield that is high on attrition but low on creativity.

Diego Simeone warned up for his reunion with David Beckham by kicking Zinedine Zidane as often as he could but that was the extent of his contribution. Baggio, as some of the Juventus players cautioned United after the game, is always capable of invention and the unexpected and if there is a danger for Ferguson it is that Inter can hardly be any worse than they were in the San Siro.

there were also reasons to hope that United might be able to exploit some defensive weaknesses, too, particularly on the flanks. On the rare occasions when Thierry Henry summoned the courage to run at Aron Winter and Javier Zanetti, both ill-fitting wing-backs, they looked distinctly uncomfortable. Their performance, even against a Juventus side that is eighth in Serie A, suggested that they will be vulnerable to the pace of Andy Cole and, especially, Ryan Giggs. Inter needed a fine save from Gianluca Pagliuca in the dying seconds to deny Juventus victory after Filippo Inzaghi had skipped merrily past their offside trap.

Beckham, if he evades the clutches of Simeone, should be able to take advantage of Winter's lack of suitability for the job, to supply a string of crosses for Cole and Dwight Yorke. Lucescu, a Romanian who is nicknamed "The Gypsy" by the Italian media because of his swarthy looks, admitted that his side desperately need a win as their trials pile up. This week, it is United; ten days after, they face the Milan derby.

United must seize their opportunity. Inter are there to be taken on Wednesday. By the return leg, Ronaldo may be back, their morale may be repaired. They are down now and United must display a streak of ruthlessness hitherto unseen to ensure they stay down and go back to the city of catwalks in rags.

INTERNAZIONALE (3-4-2-1) G. Pagliuca - F. Colaninno, D. Simeone, F. Gollini - J. Zanetti, D. Simeone, B. Casini, A. Winter - Y. Djorkaeff (sub A. Pina, C. Manna, R. Baggio) - I. Zamorano (sub N. Venetia, B). JUVENTUS (4-3-1-2) A. Perico - A. Scifo, M. Tadini, C. Ferrara, Z. Malesini (sub A.D. Lodi, B) - A. Costa, D. Deschamps, F. Edwards - Z. Zidane - J. Enxarri (sub F. Inzaghi, B), T. Henry (sub D. Ferraro, 75). Referee: B. Tomasco.

Wallace grabs hat-trick in Rangers romp

Kilmarnock 0
Rangers 5

By Phil Gordon

RANGERS do not do anything by halves. They strengthened their grip on the Scottish Premier League by demolishing a Kilmarnock side that had conceded only 15 goals until the encounter last night at Rugby Park. Rod Wallace led the rout to restore his side's ten-point lead over Celtic with a hat-trick, two of which came in the final minutes, along with a sublime finish from Jonathan Johansson.

The early goals from Neil McCann had underlined Kilmarnock's lack of belief, but they chased a consolation and were undone. Johansson's breakaway goal in the 85th minute stretched the margin to three and then Wallace compounded the nightmare with two further late goals.

Eight weeks ago, when the Scottish Premier League broke for its winter shutdown, these two clubs shared the same ambition. However, the hiatus had ruined Kilmarnock's rhythm to the extent that a four-point deficit on the leaders had expanded to 15 points because of a sequence of three games without a win.

In the same period, Rangers took maximum points from four games, scoring 17 goals in the process. Dick Advocaat's team wear the mantle of champions-elect with comfort and underlined the reason why after just five minutes, when they took the lead.

The goal owed everything to Barry Ferguson, the Rangers midfield player, who jumped to his feet after a foul by Baker and sprayed a quick free kick to the right wing to release Andrei Kanchelskis. The Russia player sped away from his pursuers before delivering a low ball across the face of goal, where Neil McCann was on hand to thump it high into the net.

Just six minutes later Kanchelskis left Kilmarnock chasing shadows again before picking out Stephane Guivarch, but his right-foot shot flew just wide of the upright.

The home team had been hoping that the skills of Ian Durrant, their midfield player, would pose a threat, but he

was anonymous in the opening half hour. Indeed, had Tony Vidmar taken advantage of a precise corner from Giovanni van Bronckhorst, then Rangers could have doubled their lead - but he scooped his shot over the bar from six yards out.

Kilmarnock eventually reversed the flow of pressure, but could not create a clear chance for themselves and Stefan Klos, the Rangers goalkeeper, simply did not have a save to ward off the bitter cold.

Gordon Marshall, the Kilmarnock goalkeeper, could not say the same. He was forced to produce a fine stop in the 48th minute, pushing a fierce, dipping shot from Kanchelskis over the bar, after the former Manchester United player had cut inside from the right wing.



McCann: opening goal

McCoist and Wright, Kilmarnock's forwards, had both been reduced to spectators by this stage, which perhaps contributed to McCoist squandering a fine opportunity in the 63rd minute to put his side back in contention.

A low cross by Burke on the right begged to be finished, but McCoist, a former Rangers player, struck his shot straight at Klos. Wallace, McCoist's heir at Rangers, showed how it should be done in the 74th minute as he ruthlessly drove in McCann's cross to double Rangers' advantage.

KILMARNOCK (4-2-3-1) G. Marshall - S. Marshall (sub A. Michael, J. Wright), K. McGovern, R. Worringer, M. Baker - A. Wallace (sub J. Durrant, M. Wright), J. Wallace (sub J. Wallace, S. Wright), R. Wright. RANGERS (3-5-2) Simeone - Simeone (sub A. Scifo, C. Ferrara, Z. Malesini), J. Enxarri (sub F. Inzaghi, B), T. Henry (sub D. Ferraro, 75). Referee: B. Tomasco.

'Baggio, as the Juventus players said, is always capable of invention and the unexpected'



Chapple gains head start

Kingstonian 1
Yeovil Town 0

By Walter Gammit

THE embrace between Geoff Chapple, the Kingstonian manager, and Colin Lippitt, the Yeovil Town head coach, was heartfelt. As manager

and coach, they shared much at Woking, including three FA U20 Trophy triumphs at Wembley, so Chapple shared his old mate's pain after Kingstonian placed with a quarter-final place with a Saturday.

"I thought it was going to be 0-0," Chapple said. "But it

was a brilliant free kick and a brilliant header."

The winner came as a blinding flash of inspiration in a contest full of mykling defending, committed work in midfield and a dearth of clear-cut chances. Kofi Nyamah swung a curving free kick from the right touchline with his left foot and Simon Stewart timed his run to perfection to beat Pennock.

Kingstonian's goal came after Leworthy had turned Hannigan and bounced a shot off the bar. For Yeovil, Pickard got behind the defence in the first half but failed to make his chances count on a bobbing pitch and Fishlock thumped a second-half free kick against the bar.

A sub-plot was supplied by referee D'Urso, who, having issued bookings to Patterson, of Kingstonian, and Brown, of Yeovil, first shrunk from issuing merited second yellow cards to Patterson, and then Brown for late tackles. Consistent, at least.

Chapple has high ambitions. He revealed a plan for a £1-million redevelopment to bring Kingstonian to National League standards has council support. Meanwhile, Wembley beckons. "The Trophy is something you get a taste for," he said. "Clive Walker's got four medals - I'd like to emulate that."

KINGSTONIAN (3-5-2) S. Stewart - S. Stewart, M. Dwyer, M. Harris - J. Hannigan, K. Nyamah, G. Patterson, G. Fisher, K. Nyamah - E. Alkanani, D. Leworthy. YEovil TOWN (2-5-2) A. Patterson - A. J. Hannigan, R. Cousins, K. Brown - D. Chapple, P. Brown, S. Stewart (sub A. Pickard, S. Thompson, M. Patterson), D. Pickard, W. Patterson. Referee: A. D'Urso.

Venables is in running says White

NOEL WHITE, chairman of the Football Association's international committee, has left the door open for Terry Venables to return as England coach. Kevin Keegan, caretaker manager of the national side, has insisted he does not want the job full time and will concentrate on trying to take Fulham into the FA Cup Premiership after his four-game run ends in June.

White is viewed as one of the men behind the departure of Venables in 1996 and was believed to have been opposed to his return after the dismissal of Glenn Hoddle.

However, White said yesterday: "We will look at certain names put before us and Terry's will almost certainly be among those. I've never queried his coaching qualities and never would. Nobody is saying that Terry Venables will not be the next England coach. He could do a good job."

The FA claimed yesterday it has not been embarrassed by revelations that Keegan has used a faith healer in the past. Hoddle, his predecessor, was heavily criticised for involving Eileen Drewer, a faith healer, with the England squad. The FA is satisfied that Keegan will not involve follow his example.

Steve Double, FA spokesman, said: "Kevin stated publicly the day after he accepted the position that he would not be using faith healers."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This deal involves a slight wrinkle in the well-known safety play in hearts. Plan the play in Six Hearts.

Dealer South	East-West game	Teams
<p> ♠ AK105 ♥ K94 ♦ 2 ♣ AKQ104 </p>	<p> ♠ J7632 ♥ - ♦ J10654 ♣ 865 </p>	
<p> ♠ Q94 ♥ Q1032 ♦ KQ87 ♣ 72 </p>	<p> ♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S </p>	
	<p> ♠ AJ8765 ♥ A93 ♦ J93 </p>	

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Lead: king of diamonds.

The trump suit has to be played for one loser, and the main problem is to play it in a way to guard against four hearts with either defender. There are various ways of doing that, but starting with the ace is not one of them when you consider the rest of the hand. With the layout above, if West splits his honours when you continue with a low heart towards the nine you have an easy task: discard one diamond on the king of spades and ruff one in the dummy before playing any more trumps. But if West plays a low heart, allowing you to win the nine, you have to go off - whether or not you play a third round of trumps. West will be able to ruff in on the third round of clubs, and another diamond from him beats the contract. Similarly, if West shows out on the first round of heart you are in trouble if East started with two or fewer clubs.

The solution is to arrange to keep a small trump in dummy. Play a low heart

and put in the nine if West plays low, and if East then shows out play on clubs. If West is void you take the king of hearts and continue with a heart from dummy.

The BBL have announced the British teams for the 44th Generali European Championships which will be held in Malta at the end of June.

The Open team is: John Collins, Martin Jones, Gary Hyatt, Alan Mould, Gerald Treddinick, Stuart Treddinick, captain: Chris Dixon, coach: David Burn.

The Women's team is: Pat Davies, Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy, Liz McGowan, Sandra Landy, Abbey Walker, captain: Jimmie Arthur, coach: Phil King.

The teams are competing for a berth in the World Championships to be held in Bermuda early in 2000.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HARMONIAN
a. A musician
b. A desert heretic
c. An instrument

JULIENNE
a. A tart
b. A revolutionary
c. Soup

KIST
a. An accent
b. Sulky
c. A chest

HANDESEL
a. Gingerbread
b. To present
c. A curved chisel

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Linares

With the first half of the elite tournament at Linares almost completed, Garry Kasparov has maintained a slight lead over a dangerous pack of pursuing rivals. After six rounds the scores are as follows: Kasparov (Russia) 4; Anand (India) 4; Adams (England), Svidler (Russia) and Topalov (Bulgaria); Leko (Hungary) 2.5; Ivanchuk (Ukraine) 1.5.

Michael Adams, Britain's representative in the tournament, had a storming start but fell back after a loss to Kasparov (given today) followed by another loss to Kramnik.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Garry Kasparov
Linares 1999

Sicilian Defence	White resigns
1. e4 c5	
2. Nf3 d6	
3. g3 Nf6	
4. Bg2 g6	
5. d3 Bg7	
6. Be3 Nf6	
7. Nge2 0-0	
8. h3 e5	
9. 0-0 Rf8	
10. a4 e6	
11. Nc4 Rb2	
12. Ne4 e5	
13. Ne4 e5	
14. f4 e5	
15. Ne4 e5	
16. Ne2 Bb7	
17. Bb2 e6	
18. Nf3 Bb8	
19. c4 Nf7	
20. Ra2 Nf3	
21. N4 Nf4	
22. Bb2 Nf3+	
23. Qd3 Ne5	
24. Qd1 Qe7	
25. h5 Bb6	
26. h6 Bb6	
27. Ne6 Rb8	

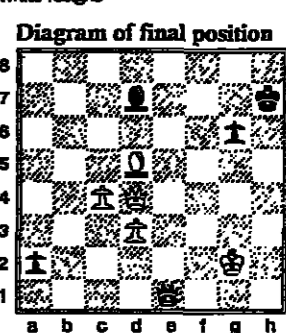


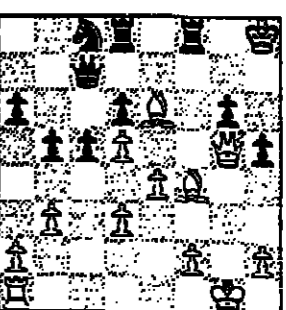
Diagram of final position

Keene online
You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Capoe - Astengo, Genau 1998.
How did White complete his kingside attack with a fine regrouping manoeuvre?



Solution on page 46

Timid BBC finally loses its nerve on match point

So you decide to put money into a tennis tournament that contains 30 players whose bankability is distinctly hazy, but it also has Tim and Greg. And certainly both are splendid players and splendid chaps and, in this country, most hugely watchable. They are cast-iron box-office success. But neither of them is a stone-cold certainty to make the final, or even the semi-final, the big weekend days of your tournament.

So what do you do? It is the most anguishing thing for anyone involved in the business of sport. Sport is attractive because it is ultimately unpredictable. Good business practice is all about the ability to predict, to see around the next corner. That is how you get ahead of the game.

In other words, sport makes money because its unpredictability is so marketable. But it is hard to cope with as a business, because you can't predict it. This is a simple paradox that lies at the heart of sport biz.

Television is an aspect of sport biz, and a very important one. The BBC bought up the week's big tennis event, which seemed to be held in a disused Toys R Us warehouse in Battersea Park. It had Tim and Greg on home soil, so it was an obviously good idea to televise it. But what if they don't reach the final? The BBC invested money in the tournament, but not faith. They feared the unpredictability too much. In short, they bottled it.

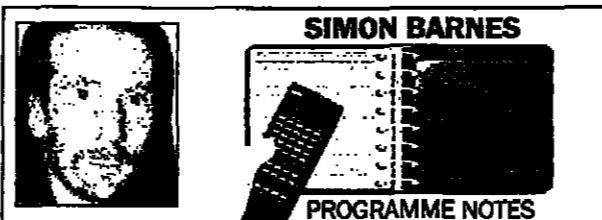
This robustly tinorous approach seemed to be well and truly justified when Tim Henman went out in the first round. This is precisely the sort of result that has sport's money men screaming in anguish. You can supply burgers on demand and a burger is always a burger, but sport has a will of its own. You never know what you are going to get. You never have control of your own product. Tim's out? Well, that's sports biz.

It's great for mere punters, of course. Who is around the next corner? It is absolutely great, not knowing. Every time we go to a match or sport happening. And the BBC had it, but they didn't put it out; at least they didn't put it out live on *Sunday Grandstand*.

Instead, we had highlights two hours later. We missed 24 games altogether. From the way the package was put together, you could effortlessly predict what was happening and which way the games were going to go. This was the case until well into the third set. I couldn't get my mind on the case until it was 3-3 in the last.

It was pretty poor television, then. A pity, because it seemed to be an absolute cracker of a match. The BBC couldn't have known that. They couldn't have predicted with 100 per cent certainty that Greg would make the final and that it would be a better. So they played cautious.

It was a horrible decision to have to make, but the fact of the matter is that the Beeb got it wrong. Rusedski lost out in a hectic and splendid third set against Richard Krajicek, despite one of the most outrageous pieces of gamesmanship — in the strict Poterian sense of the term — seen on television for some time. It was great stuff.



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

switch on a television with live sport before us, we might be about to watch the best match we have seen. We know we almost certainly won't. But that little question, that vast chasm of unpredictability, is what brings us back to sport again and again.

And the BBC knew that a live final with Tim or Greg — could God be wonderful this week and give us both? — was going to be very watchable indeed. But with neither, it would all be the most crashing bore for anyone save serious tennis buffs. And so the BBC lost its nerve, scheduled a live rugby league match and gave us extended highlights.

All right, the thing was live on BBC Choice, but most of us haven't got that yet. And Greg Rusedski made the final, which made it a mainstream

event. I sometimes hear people moaning about Greg and Tim: they don't win every tournament they play in, they have been disappointing, neither has won a grand-slam event, they are maddeningly incon-

sistent. They are all too British — even Greg. But hey, chaps. We have two Brits in the top ten and absolutely none busting a gut to take their places. Let us just enjoy these two while we have them.

Greg and Tim are living national treasures and the way the two are inextricably linked adds an extra dimension to it all. Their rivalry is a perpetual stimulus to each. One player waxing as the other wanes, until the balance tips back the other way again. We should all revel in this odd pair and do everything we can to enjoy them. That includes those who bring us sporting television. Brings us all the Tim and Greg you can. It's not as if they'll be around for ever.

That's my ball, and I'm taking it home



Ball and brawl: Truss receives her illegally signed memento from Nigel Gibbs of Watford, while (right) her fluorescent, sponsored version, after successfully avoiding the net, is caught unawares as Howe of Swindon wallops in the winner

Being a football sponsor has never appealed to me particularly. Perhaps it is the cynic in me, but whenever I notice in the match programme that Dean Gammit's kit is generously sponsored by "Frankie and Alan" a frisson tickles my spine. Such naive, unquestioning selflessness. I have this persistent image, you see, of those poor souls Frankie and Alan answering the door one Saturday morning mid-season to find all Dean Gammit's laundry in a big basket on the step.

"You're the kit people, right? I'll be back for it this afternoon," says the delivery man. "No starch in the shirts."

Thus, when I was asked to be honorary match ball sponsor for Watford v Swindon Town on Friday, I initially hedged a bit. I assumed there was a catch. But no, said the nice woman from Watford on the phone. I had won the deal fair and square in a business card draw. It was worth £400, and I could attend the match with three friends, have dinner in the restaurant (wine extra) and take home

the match ball, signed by the players. Wow. To take home the very ball used in the match; have a little display cabinet built; instal a spotlight. People would say I was "deeply sad," wouldn't they? Which is, of course, in football terms, the highest compliment you can pay.

However, there certainly was a catch. It was that you can't get to Watford on the M25 on a Friday night unless you set out the night before. So instead of treating your friends to a free leisurely dinner at Vicarage Road, you make them sit in rainy traffic jams and watch the hours tick by. You then arrive at the ground ten minutes before kick-off in a heightened emotional state, ravenous with hunger, and more than ready to shoot the inevitable obstructive jobsworth with a walkie-talkie who won't let you park your car.

But there was an unexpected benefit to this anguish. A plus side to being late and angry and frustrated. It was that although the jobsworths were naturally out in force (Elton John himself was once denied a parking space at Wat-

ford), I discovered, after nearly three years in this grindingly unhelpful football business, a glorious open-sesame. "I must get through. I'm the match ball sponsor," I announced. And astonishingly, it worked.

To someone who has never before persuaded a stadium steward to use the rearmost amount of initiative on her behalf, here was a revelation. Someone let me park my car; someone else helped us scot through the wrong stand, rather than get right round the stadium to another entrance. It was unbelievable.

Forget being from *The Times*, incidentally: in taking the logical path from A to B at a sporting event, full accreditation and urgent professional necessity cut no ice whatever. In my desperation at the World Cup last year, where I spent five weeks battering my head against bolted doors, I finally memorised the French for "Let me through with this plasma" — a last-ditch ruse that would, of course, have required me to fill plastic bags with pints of my own blood, but on balance would

LYNNE TRUSS



definitely have been worth it. Anyway, we got in finally, puff, pant. Rain was falling on the perfect pitch: just under 9,000 people had turned out. The remainder of the usual crowd staying home to

watch it on telly. We saw Watford not score at all, and Swindon score once. At half-time we ate the dinner (very good roast beef and veg) and I calmed down enough to get quite enthralled watching the ball itself (my ball) flying about. "Yellow for a night game, I suppose," I pointed out excitedly to my chums, handing them binoculars. "I can't see any signatures on it yet, though, can you?"

And the ball had a good game. Very active, quite nippy. Swindon's Bobby Howe caught it unawares in the closing minutes of the first half and scored with it, but otherwise it kept out of the net despite several close shaves. I started wondering whether it should have a pet name. Bobby Ball.

Benny Ball. I also worried what would be the consequences if (as often occurs) the ball went out of play and another was thrown in. Which ball did I get? Then, scanning the programme, I discovered the poleaxing news that there was a second match ball sponsor, "Watford Council and the Wiseman Family". What? The Wisemans get the match ball as well? Good grief.

Nobody mentioned anything about a time share. As is perhaps becoming clear, being match ball sponsor is not an ideal way to watch a football match. You get distracted by the wrong things, such as whether the ball is getting too wet for the signatures to stick. In the second half Swindon's George Ndah wore a worrying bandage on his right hand — would he still be able to sign? I was vaguely aware of the Hornets doing their best to equalise — buzz, buzz — but mainly I was concerned with tracking the adventures of Brucie Ball or Brian Ball (Billy Ball?), wondering how much to insure it for, and musing why there are so few auctions of match balls at Christie's.

So you will be glad to know that Barry Ball is safely before me as I write, and of course it is not the real match ball at all. It's a white Watford FC ball (size 5) and I'm dead proud, though having spent two days studying the wild scribbles, I must report that an annotated match ball might be even better.

There's a signature that might be N. Wright, but I've squinted from all angles and it still looks more like Hilary. A few of the others are quite legible, but unfortunately bear no relation to the known personnel of the match. "A. Bally", for example, is very clear, but I'm sure I'd remember if he played. Meanwhile those lesser known players "M. Lags" and "Little Gfend" have signed with admirable flourish. Still, it was a new footie experience, and Watford were charming, and it was my own fault for underestimating the traffic. As I gaze now in wonderment at Bruno Ball, I must admit that my most treasured possession remains a book inscribed by Arthur Miller, but who knows? When Little Gfend becomes the new Alan Shearer, I can rethink my priorities. Meanwhile, however, I shall practise my wonderful open-sesame without delay at Monet in the 23rd Century. "How dare you block the path of a match ball sponsor?" is clearly always worth a go. And let's be honest, it's a lot less drastic than opening a vein.

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

No excuses for Johnson

From Mr S Kyle

Sir: I disagree with Alasdair Reid (report, February 22). It is not a matter of changing the rules to allow punishment of Martin Johnson for stamping. It is time for the England selectors to stand up and be counted.

Martin Johnson cynically and cold-bloodedly stamped on John Leslie, while he lay unable to defend himself in the bottom of a ruck at Twickenham.

There was no element of mitigation, no heat of the moment, not even a suspicion of Leslie bending the rules a bit and putting himself at risk.

I looked back over a recording of the incident several times. Johnson approached the ruck from a distance, with everything in clear view, with plenty of time to assess the situation.

His body angle is clearly shown by the photograph reproduced in the paper. His feet are in front of his body. He is not driving into the ruck. His feet are in front of his body weight for one purpose, to stamp on his opponent's face or neck.

What message does it send to the players at every level if the England selectors continue to condone and reward such behaviour, by selecting this player?

Alasdair Reid states the law is an ass as far as violent conduct is concerned. The selectors are not obliged to

Percentage golfers make the game boring

From Mr H.E. Paice

Sir, John Hopkins (Strokeplay) no match for head-to-head, February 22 highlighted much of what I believe is causing so-called "big golf" to lose its attraction. To many of us ardent golfers and watchers of the game, whether live or on television, the "percentage" approach of the majority of players is boring.

As stated by Hopkins, a mistake or two may be costly, in every sense of the word, under strokeplay conditions, so we are then lumbered with the unending misery of putt-stalking, grass-throwing etc. ad nauseum — far less

prove themselves of similar pedigree. S KYLE, 11 Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen.

From Mr Aadel Kardooni Sir, as a friend and former colleague of Martin Johnson's at Leicester, I found Simon Barnes' Midweek View (February 24) offensive. Simon Barnes builds a picture of Martin being a prehistoric man, aggressive and lacking in intelligence. At the same time, he points out that he has never met Martin. I am sure that if he had researched his subject he would have found that Martin is intelligent with an engaging disposition.

Although I am not condoning Martin's stamping on John Leslie, he is a hard and

physical man who plays his rugby in the same way. At the same time, Martin is not a so-called "dirty player" who looks to pounce on games to hand out his form of retribution. Yours sincerely, AADEL KARDOONI, 100 Piccadilly, London W1.

From Mr Rob Edgerton Sir, in his Calcutta Cup preview (February 20), Michael Lynagh said England needed someone with "the build of Dallaglio, the pace of Guscott and excellent ball-handling skills". There is such a man playing rugby in England — unfortunately, it's the wrong code.

Andrew Farrell fits this description to a tee, as well as being a very accurate kicker. If

important in matchplay — as is the weather. Television commentators take great pride in "calling the shot". Why? Because they know the percentage play and are rarely surprised. I don't want to hear their smugness; I'd much rather they speculated — or, shall we say, gambled on getting it right!

Surely a format can be devised to satisfy all interests? Yours faithfully, H.E. PAICE, 19 Ravenswood Avenue, West-Wickham, Kent.

only he, along with players such as Connolly, Radlinski, Robinson and Newlove, were available in the back line for Clive Woodward. Yours sincerely, ROB EDGERTON, Cathedral Court, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey.

Lordly confusion

From Mr Denis Franzini Sir, I have made an application to MCC for tickets for a Test match to be played at Lord's in July. I have noted that the Regulations of MCC include "No ... confusion of any kind is permitted in any part of the ground". MCC further reserves the right to remove from the ground any

Blair's turn to play fair

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, there is not a similarity between the match recently played between Arsenal and Sheffield United and the recent election of the leader of the Welsh assembly? Arsenal, whose actions in the first match were considered to be not in the interest of sportsmanship, offered a rematch — that was applauded by all.

In Wales, Tony Blair changed the electoral system that voted for Welsh leader of the Labour Party to suit his own ends, and his "puppet" duly won a hollow victory. Would it not be in the interest of fair play, and the credibility of the Prime Minister, to return this election on a level playing field by giving every

person who refuses to comply with the Regulations. In view of the confusion caused at the England v Sri Lanka one-day international in Australia on January 23 (the "calling" of Muralitharan for "throwing") does the definition of "any person" extend to the umpires? Yours faithfully, DENIS FRANZINI, 10 Courtfield Mews, London SW5.

member of the trade unions an individual vote? Yours faithfully, IVOR HALL, 29 Erskine Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11.

From Mr Brian Kain Sir, Now that justice has been seen to be done with Arsenal's FA Cup victory over Sheffield United, should we now not reconsider the fair play "rule"?

The incident in the first match resulted from a United player putting the ball into touch because a team-mate was hurt. Surely it should be the prerogative of the opposing team to make the gesture, ensuring that no time is wasted when players feign injury? Yours faithfully, BRIAN B. KAIN, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire.

The Ford, Little Hadham, Herts SG11 2AY

From Mr Giles Lyon Sir, In light of Arsène Wenger's refusal to accept Marc Overmars' "winning" goal in the FA Cup tie with Sheffield United, does this mean that players would be able to retract "goals" if they thought they were unfair, undeserved or just felt bad about scoring?

Yours faithfully, GILES LYON, 150a Harbord Street, London SW6.

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow Oxford aim to stem the flood of Cambridge victories in the Boat Race next month. Mike Rosewell sizes up the crews who will battle it out on the Thames.

Wednesday Colin Jackson assesses his chances of striking gold in the world indoor athletics championships in Japan.

Thursday Is the European Cup still in Manchester United's sights after their quarter-final tie with Internazionale?

Friday The Formula One wheels are turning in Australia for the opening grand prix of the season. Kevin Eason reports from Melbourne.

Saturday Football Saturday: the FA Cup quarter-finals in prospect plus top columnists Gary Neville and Robert Elms.

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Gloucester blessed by rub of the green

Gloucester 15
Harlequins 13

By DAVID HANDS

EVERY new administration needs a smile from Dame Fortune and Gloucester's arrival in the sixth minute of injury time at Kingsholm on Saturday. Graham Hughes, the Manchester referee, decided that Chris Sheasby had not released the ball in a tackle and Mark Mapletoft kicked his fifth penalty goal to take the home side into the semi-finals of the Telford's Bitter Cup.

Richard Hill, Gloucester's deposed director of rugby, who sent a message of encouragement to his former charges, might have reflected that this will be Gloucester's third appearance in the semi-finals in the past four years.

Philippe Saint-Andre, appointed after Hill's dismissal a fortnight ago, knows victory is only a temporary balm. "I have never won easily with Gloucester," the French wing said. "We played with a big heart but we are too traditional here. New rugby is not just kick and chase, scrums and lineouts." Hill knew that and tried to change. Saint-Andre's ambition is to build a squad that will play European rugby in season 2000-2001.

Gloucester deserved their luck. They lost Scott Benton, their scrum half, to a groin strain acquired in the pre-match warm-up and Richard Tombs, their influential centre, after eight minutes with a knee injury. Terry Fanolua, their other centre, was attending a family funeral in Western Samoa, so their attacking resources were thin in the extreme against a side that has not lost at Kingsholm since 1993.

Harlequins made poor use of the strong wind blowing downfield in the first half, which they lost 6-3, and could not score the points their imaginative play deserved in the second. John Gallagher, the director of rugby, was inclined to pass some of the blame to Hughes, though his refereeing of the ball on the floor was consistent with that of many of his peers this season.

"We spent a whole day at a seminar for coaches and referees discussing the tackle law," Gallagher said. "I find it incredible that you can do that, think you know what the game is and then find a performance like that in the middle." Harlequins' hope now is that they can qualify for Europe next season — if Europe proves to be back on the agenda for English clubs. They had the most dangerous runners in John Schuster and the abrasive Keith Wood, but they could take little advantage of Dan Luger's confident display.

Gallagher could reflect that his team's try came from a pass by Neil McCarthy of vaulting ambition but limited technical expertise. The Gloucester hooker spun the ball 30 metres into midfield, missed his colleagues and allowed Harlequins to drive deep into the home 22 from a penalty, from the lineout, Rory Jenkins ran powerfully and Huw Harries, with the hint of a dummy, opened the defence under the posts.

Gloucester's sole attacking play seemed the introduction of Saint-Andre from the blind-side wing, but it was Rory Greenlade-Jones who finally unpicked the lock. His run into the Harlequins 22 appeared to have been for nothing when he knocked on, but into the wind, Harlequins could not kick clear, so Sheasby picked up and drove. As for the former England No. 8, he was judged to have retained the ball on the ground and the accurate Mapletoft did the rest.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Penalty goals: Mapletoft 5 (26m, 38, 51, 73, 95). Harlequins: Try: Harries (51). Conversion: Schuster. Penalty goals: Schuster 2 (29, 49).
SCORING SEQUENCE: Gloucester (first) 3-0, 3-3 (6-3 half-time), 6-10, 9-10, 9-13, 12-13, 15-13.
GLoucester: C. Gallagher, B. Johnson, S. Morris, P. Saint-Andre, R. Greenlade-Jones, 10m, P. Saint-Andre, M. Mapletoft, 1. Sanders, J. Woodman (rep. A. Woods, 70), M. McCarthy (rep. C. Kelly, 51), A. Deacon, R. Fidler (rep. D. Sims, 54), M. Cornwell, E. Pearce, R. Carter, S. Ojomah.
HARlequins: D. O'Leary, J. Kuyler, P. Mearns (rep. W. Calver, 72), S. Luger, D. Luger, R. Lay, H. Harries, D. Barnes, K. Wood, G. Hughes, G. Llewellyn, S. Dawson (rep. G. Morgan, 51), J. Jenkins, A. Leach (rep. J. Murphy, 69), C. Sheasby.
Referee: G. Hughes (Manchester)

Tetley's Bitter Cup: Holders eliminated by resilient Newcastle



Tuigamala, right, of Newcastle, who scored two tries, powers through the Saracens defence during his side's Tetley's Bitter Cup victory at Kingston Park yesterday

Newcastle 15
Saracens 0

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NEWCASTLE'S future may yet be uncertain in the long term but if any potential business consortium seeks a going concern, they will find one at Kingston Park. With a display of magnificently controlled rugby in foul conditions, and two deftly taken tries from Vaita Tuigamala, the Premiership champions of last season removed Saracens, the holders, from the Tetley's Bitter Cup.

The North East threw in everything it had to offer yesterday — driving wind, a numbing rain and, at one stage, sleet across the pitch that put a high premium on basic skills. The response of both teams was better than an enthusiastic crowd had the right to expect, but where Saracens could make nothing of their territorial advantage in the first half, Newcastle had the ideal game-breaker after the interval, in Tuigamala. Nor was the Samoan wing merely in battering-ram mode.

His first try could hardly have been bettered, his second, three minutes from time, embellishing

Saracens tumble to guile of Tuigamala

the advantage as Saracens tried desperately to break the stranglehold by running from their own 22. Victory leaves Newcastle looking at the possibility of a second trophy in successive seasons and Rob Andrew, their director of rugby, casting sideways glances at those running the game.

If Newcastle are drawn at home in the semi-finals today, Andrew will fight tooth and nail to play at Kingston Park — where the capacity is 6,600 — despite the suggestion from English First-Division Rugby that the penultimate round must be played at a ground capable of holding 8,000. He is already opposed to the decision to play Premiership rugby through the World Cup next season, when at least five countries are likely to raise his resources. "I would like to know who makes these rules, why is 8,000 suddenly the magic number?" he said.

But Andrew could not have been happier with the form of his players. A fortnight before, just three days after the announcement that Cameron Hall Developments were to withdraw their funding, a distracted Newcastle were surprisingly beaten by London Scottish in the Premiership. "This game made a huge statement about the players and the club," Andrew said. "If we can get the business side resolved quickly, we can move forward. The players will sit tight, no-one wants to leave."

Developments are expected within the next ten days, hastened perhaps by the possibility of more silverware on the back of a forward display that was as good as anything Newcastle have shown this season. Garath Archer enjoyed himself at the lineout, when throwing was often a lottery, and the scrummaging work undertaken by

Feidlim McLaughlin paid dividends against Saracens in the second half with George Graham holding so redoubtable a prop as Paul Wallace. Security in that area allowed the immensely promising Ross Beattie to roam at large from No. 8, helping to police a midfield that, in the first half, Saracens threatened to pierce. Twice Penaud was through, Bracken and Ravenscroft were hauled down just short and Constable kicked when he, perhaps, should have given Thirby the chance to stretch his legs on the right wing.

The game turned either side of half-time. Newcastle worked Legg clear and though the full back was stopped by Daniel five metres short of the line, the supporting wave poured in and Saracens fell offside under their own posts. Even in such a wind, Wilkinson was able to kick the penalty before placing a

probing grub-kick towards Underwood's wing that Thirby did well to clear. The second score, eight minutes after the interval, was decisive: Legg made the extra man on the blindside of a scrum on Newcastle's ten-metre line, Tuigamala was into his stride and kicked ahead. He pursued the ball so well that he claimed it ahead of Johnson and though the Saracens full back made the tackle, Tuigamala's momentum carried him to the line. Newcastle's defence became even more grudging after that, even when Penaud nipped through a gap and kicked for his wing. The final nail was driven home near the finish. Saracens' passing broke down, Beattie drove forward and Tuigamala arrived from deep to take Armstrong's pass and sprint 20 metres to the line.

Whatever the future of first-class rugby in the North East, Newcastle seem likely to be part of it.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Try: Tuigamala 2 (48m, 77). Conversion: Wilkinson. Penalty goal: Wilkinson (50).
SCORING SEQUENCE: Newcastle (first) 3-0 (half-time), 6-0, 15-0.
NEWCASTLE: S. Luger, T. Underwood, M. Shaw, J. Wilkinson, V. Tuigamala, A. Andrew, G. Armstrong, G. Graham, R. Penaud, M. Hunter, G. Archer, H. Wyatt, P. Wallace (rep. S. O'Neill, 60), R. Arnold, R. Beattie.
SARACENS: G. Johnson (rep. B. Lee, 74), R. Thirby, C. Constable (rep. S. Somers, 40), S. Penaud, B. Daniel, A. Penaud, K. Bracken, D. Phipps (rep. B. Hardy, 74), R. Chubb, S. Wilkinson, P. Johns, D. Greenwood, P. Parker, R. Hall, A. Duggan.
Referee: E. Morrison (Bristol)

Aggressive defence gives Wasps their sting

Wasps 19
London Irish 3

By MARK SOUSTER

ONCE again, Wasps can sense that Twickenham feeling. A year ago they put London Irish out of the Tetley's Bitter Cup at Sunbury at the quarter-final stage with a resounding victory on their way to the final. Yesterday, at Loftus Road, they repeated the feat with a victory that, if not as emphatic in terms of scoreline, was its equal in terms of superiority. It completed a clean sweep of wins for home sides in the last eight. Given that results have gone with the territory, they will have fingers crossed for another home tie in the draw today.

This victory may not have been achieved in the grand flowing manner of 12 months ago, but this was every bit as satisfying against opponents who have been transformed in the interim. In front of a record crowd of 11,417, it was hard, it was ferocious, and the tackle count 115-94 in favour of Wasps tells its own story.

This was the other side of an inconsistent team that succumbed lamely at Bedford in the Allied Dunbar Premiership recently. In a game that was dominated by defence, it was Wasps who denied

London Irish a single try-scoring opportunity, and offered them only two penalties within kicking range. Woods was able to convert the first, but missed the second. Their discipline was exemplary, but London Irish contrived to make life difficult for themselves.

Kirkie struggled to find his jumpers and, as a consequence, their lineout was disjointed — how they miss Malcolm O'Kelly. The exits were also undone by their spirit of adventure, running penalties with

almost reckless abandon. They want to play a fast game, keeping the ball in hand, but with a deceptive wind, it cried out for a calmer head to kick for position. That would have at least relieved the almost relentless pressure they found themselves under in the second half and which increasingly forced them into errors.

They ran just about everything and with a defence as resolute as that of Wasps, in which Joe Worsley was outstanding, was a fatal

mistake. In contrast, Alex King's prompting maintained Wasps' momentum and territorial advantage.

Dick Best, the London Irish director of rugby, was philosophical. "We never played anywhere near our potential. We made too many errors," he said. Nigel Melville, his counterpart, was glad that his side regained some consistency. "The motivation is to go back to Twickenham, where we last heavily lost, to put things right. But we are not taking anything for granted. If

we play like that again we can get to the final."

Take nothing away from Wasps, though. Their back row was dominant and laid the foundations for success. Worsley was hugely influential in an aggressive defence. Lawrence Dallaglio was also prominent while Sorvino ran at the midfield relentlessly. Trevor Leota added an extra dimension in the loose, as well as being a dynamic force around the fringes, he is quick and has good hands. His involvement almost created a try for Dallaglio, who crossed in the second half but was penalised for a double movement. The England captain, however, was not to be denied.

After 73 minutes Simon Shaw, a replacement for Reed, drove down the short side and Roloff provided the scoring pass that Dallaglio gleefully accepted. The additional penalty goal by Logan three minutes later was the final nail.

SCORERS: Wasps: Try: Dallaglio (73m). Conversion: Logan. Penalty goals: Logan 3 (1, 73, 78).
SCORING SEQUENCE: Wasps (first) 3-0, 3-3 (half-time), 6-3, 9-3, 16-3.
WASPS: J. Lacey, P. Sampson, F. Walters, R. Henderson, K. Logan, A. King (rep. M. Dunning, 50m), M. Wood, A. Best, T. Leota, W. Green, S. Brown, E. Vail, A. Pritchard, D. Mearns, B. Wiggins, D. Morrison, C. Dallaglio (rep. 46-58m), C. Gilpin, R. Hutton, J. Sorvino, J. Roloff, J. Worsley, P. Sorvino (rep. E. Roloff, 58).
LONDON IRISH: C. O'Brien, J. Bishop (rep. J. Cunningham, 40), N. Barnes, B. Venter, R. Woods, S. Bishop, K. P. Nutt, N. Hally, R. Kila, R. Hardwick (rep. K. Fildes, 70), R. Seachuck, N. Harvey, J. Boer, R. Gallagher, I. Farnham.
Referee: C. White (Gloucestershire)

Stransky fails his England test



Stransky: ineligible

JOEL STRANSKY, the Leicester fly half, has ruled out playing for England in the World Cup later this year because of the absence of due qualifications. Stransky believed that he had an England-born grandfather, which would have made him eligible.

But after full investigation, Stransky, who kicked the winning dropped goal for South Africa against New Zealand in the 1995 World Cup final, discovered that it was his great-grandparents who moved to South Africa early this century. This

bars him from representing England, even though he has stated his intention to remain resident in this country.

"It's disappointing news but it takes a load off my shoulders," he said. "My England career is not an issue now. Stransky would have become eligible to play for England a month before the World Cup began this autumn."

Montferrand booked their place in the European Cup next season by beating Bourgoin 35-16 in the final of the European Shield in Lyons on Saturday.

Hanley offers hope to Sale

Bedford 7
Manchester Sale 18

By MARK BALDWIN

ETERNAL optimists maintain that there are no endings, only new beginnings; and optimism, often spilling over into blind faith, is the very lifeblood of sport. Take the events at Goldington Road on Saturday.

Bedford, who simply had to win to maintain realistic hopes of clawing themselves out of the Allied Dunbar Premiership's bottom two, produced instead one of their most disappointing displays of the season to allow Sale, their fellow strugglers, to pull six points ahead of them.

But were Bedford in utter despair afterwards? On the contrary, according to Rudi Straucl, their director of rugby, whose seemingly unquenchable spirit continues to

provide hard-up Bedford with perhaps their most prized asset. "Our aim is to stay above West Hartlepool and I believe we can do that," Straucl said. "And, then, I think we can win the play-off against the second division's second-placed team."

For a club that have endured a wretched season of underachievement, including eight successive defeats before this win, Sale were also surprisingly upbeat as their fears of relegation eased.

Well-organised in defence and slowing the game down whenever possible to take the steam from Bedford's occasional raids, Sale won the day because they have, in Steve Hanley, the most exciting attacking discovery of the season.

Hanley, 19, may yet force his way into the Five Nations Championship and illustrated with his second try, an instinctive eye for a gap, his perfectly-

timed diagonal run inside Chris Yates injecting pace into a static move.

But the real demonstration of the power of Hanley's 6ft 3in, 16st frame, had come 13 minutes earlier. Rory Underwood, who might be 36 in June but did, after all, win 88 England caps, was tight up on Hanley when he received the ball. Underwood was brushed off like an irritant fly as Hanley thundered away. A case, perhaps, of a new beginning and a sad ending?

SCORERS: Bedford: Try: Paramore (59m). Conversion: Howard (51).
MANCHESTER SALE: Try: Hanley (13). Conversion: Howard. Penalty goals: Howard 2 (27, 58).
SCORING SEQUENCE: Bedford (first) 0-5, 0-8, 0-15 (half-time), 7-15, 7-18.
BEDFORD: S. Strain, R. Underwood, A. Murdoch, D. Harris (rep. J. Evans, 60m), D. O'Mahony, S. Wood, R. Elliott, A. Cadden (rep. A. O'Brien, 53), J. Richards, C. Boyd, A. Cadden (rep. J. Cooke, 59), S. Murray, R. Winters (rep. C. Cooke, 14-18), J. Forster, J. Parnham.
Referee: T. Fisher (Chester)

Determined Diver has Scotland all at sea

England 34
Scotland 7

By ALAN PEARCY

IF ENGLAND'S women are to close the gap on New Zealand, the world champions, they could do with a few more like Chris Diver. Yesterday the full back, absent from England's last outing in the World Cup third place play-off last May, provided the highlight of a scrappy victory over Scotland when she caught a high ball in her own 22, and with explosive pace raced the length of the field to score.

The Sussex firefighter's solo effort was the fifth of six England tries that launched Gill Burns's side into the first official Five Nations Championship in emphatic fashion at the Richmond Athletic Ground.

Scotland, who had won the

title last year after beating England 8-5, offered stern resistance but never remotely threatened to repeat that upset once Burns, the No. 8, had cancelled out Rimmer Lewis's third-minute try for the away side.

With the industrious Helen Clayton complementing Burns's power in the back row, and Emma Mitchell, the scrum half, looking as perky as anyone on the field, England won at a canter.

Mitchell and Burns, again, crossed before the break before Diver glided through within 40 seconds of the restart and, at 22-7, England — with seven Saracens players in their ranks — were home and dry, with the second half something of an error-strewn anticlimax.

SCORERS: England: Three Burns 2 (8, 28m), Diver 2 (41, 72), Mitchell (28), Crawford (88). Conversion: Collins. Burns. Scotland: Try: Lewis. Conversion: Chalmers.

Swansea prolong defiance

Bridgend 16
Swansea 43

By GERALD DAVIES

THE battle of words between the Welsh Rugby Union on the one hand and Cardiff and Swansea on the other is set to continue. Yesterday was the deadline when both clubs were meant to have paid the £150,000 fine imposed for playing unsanctioned fixtures against teams from the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Both clubs have declined to pay and do not intend to do so. What the penalty is for failing to comply remains unclear.

On Saturday, Cardiff and Swansea qualified for the quarter-final of the union's cup competition sponsored by SWALEC. Thus their presence is secure for the moment since the union cannot contemplate alienating SWALEC, who would insist that both Cardiff

and Swansea remain in the tournament.

Bridgend, second from bottom of the premier division, gave a good account of themselves in the first half. With all the enthusiasm that a one-off cup game can motivate and the position of underdog can enhance, the home team forced the game their way. Swansea could hardly settle, committing all sorts of errors so as to allow Cull to kick a couple of penalty goals.

When Durston, who had a fine match, kicked into the open, Swansea were so spread-eagled that three Bridgend players were given the choice to pick up the ball. It was Andrew Williams who did so and scored the try.

They might have extended this advantage had Cull been more accurate with three other penalty chances, but a 13-3 lead was never going to be enough. Swansea forced three scrummages on their oppo-

Indiscipline of Johnson turns tie on its head

Richmond 15
Leicester 13

By MARK SOUSTER

THESE are difficult times for Martin Johnson. However much he protests his innocence over the John Leslie stamping incident, the impact will undoubtedly leave as deep an impression on the England lock as it did, temporarily, on the Scottish centre's neck at Twickenham nine days ago.

As never before he is a marked man. On Saturday, Johnson was shown a white card for what John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, described as a "typical" professional foul. The decision by Steve Lander, the referee, effectively cost Leicester their chance of a league and cup double this season and subconsciously or not, referees are now on Johnson's case, however much others, among them Dean Richards, defend his reputation and deny that he is a target. "If we are trying to clear up the game, pick on somebody who is dirty," Richards said.

The ten-minute spell from the 27th minute turned a magnificent, full-throttle cup-tie on its head. In Johnson's absence, Richmond scored two tries in four minutes, by Clarke and Williams, respectively from scrum and lineout, that won the game and secured their place in a cup semi-final for the first time in their 138-year history.

Certainly Richmond looked to play on Johnson's perceived fragile temperament, as well as that of others. The tactic, cynical in itself, worked. As he was against Ireland at Wembley, Craig Quinell was in turn abrasive and provocative and punched Johnson as the half-time whistle blew.

To his credit Johnson kept calm. Quinell was sin-binned for punching Pat Howard in the second half although, crucially, Leicester managed only one score during his sideline sojourn, when Neil Back drove over from a lineout.

Kingston praised Lander's "courage" in taking action against the Leicester captain, who was penalised for stepping over a ruck and toe-kicking the ball out of Augustin Pichot's hands ten metres from the Leicester line. "If we are going to find space on a rugby field it is so important you are hard on this type of infringement," he said. Lander is to be applauded because it was a cynical offence.

This was not a dirty game however, more rugby in the raw; a fiercely contested Tetley's Bitter Cup quarter-final, in which both sides spurned opportunities wide open. Leicester were always on the back foot after losing Joel Stransky on Friday with a knee injury. Without his control, and without anyone capable of straightening the line, they could make little headway against a committed Richmond cover defence.

With seven minutes to go, Corry had pounced on a loose ball after Clarke and then Hutton tried to run out of defence, and the feeling remained that Leicester might still have enough character and resolve to win, despite Simpson's conversion rebounding off the upright. For all their dominance, they were restricted to a dropped-goal attempt by Simpson that barely got off the ground.

After three days away at Windsor, Richmond had decided to adopt a more direct approach. In short they decided to take Leicester on at their own game — kicking for position, and turning their opponents. In the end, despite a few palpitations, it worked. "Fantastic feeling," Clarke said. "A great day for the club."

SCORERS: Richmond: Try: Clarke (24m). Williams (58). Conversion: Vail. Penalty goal: Vail (50).
SCORING SEQUENCE: Richmond (first) 0-3, 7-3, 12-3 (half-time), 12-5, 15-4, 15-13.
LEICESTER: M. Pichot, A. Williams, M. Duggan, B. Wiggins, D. Morrison, C. Dallaglio (rep. 46-58m), C. Gilpin, R. Hutton, J. Sorvino, J. Roloff, J. Worsley, P. Sorvino (rep. E. Roloff, 58).
RICHMOND: S. Lander, J. Bishop (rep. J. Cunningham, 40), N. Barnes, B. Venter, R. Woods, S. Bishop, K. P. Nutt, N. Hally, R. Kila, R. Hardwick (rep. K. Fildes, 70), R. Seachuck, N. Harvey, J. Boer, R. Gallagher, I. Farnham.
Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool)

Silk Cut Challenge Cup: Veteran Great Britain stand-off orchestrates Leeds victory

St Helens trampled underfoot by Powell

Leeds Rhinos.....24
St Helens.....16

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IN 15 years of rugby league, Daryl Powell has only been to Wembley with Great Britain. Like everyone else associated with Leeds Rhinos, the veteran stand-off half, who again made a mockery of his troublesome feet as St Helens went the way of Wigan Warriors at Headingley on Saturday, is taking nothing for granted.

The fact that he had not required a painkilling injection, as Leeds maintained their nerve and discipline to reach the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-finals, was a bonus. At 33, Leeds would be advised to wrap Powell in cotton wool. "There's a chip and a spur growing on a bone in my foot, so I've a problem. I always thought once I was past 32, I'd just take it year by year," he said.

Now that Tony Kemp and Graham Holroyd have left, Leeds need Powell fit and in his present form. Karl Pratt, Powell's junior by 15 years, was bought from Featherstone Rovers as an outstand-

ing stand-off prospect. In the meantime, the play of beginning there with Powell and pushing Jesty Harris up from full back later in games continues to work nicely.

Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, is an admirer. "You need your tough, experienced men to lead the way. Daryl was outstanding for the time he was on, both in attack and defence. Other guys feed off that," he said.

Powell, a confessed long shot for the coaching position when Murray leaves for North Sydney in October, said: "The way Wigan got themselves as a dynasty in the game is what this club's aiming for." With only a Yorkshire Cup victory to speak of in the 21 years since they last lifted the Challenge Cup, Leeds have reckoned before that they have a winning blend and been disappointed.

This time they may be proved right, not simply because they have a pack that refuses to buckle, but because they can adapt their game. Whereas Wigan were run off their feet, St Helens invited an arm wrestle and flinched. Leeds were initially sucked in by niggly spoiling, but adjusted the way that they defend-



Blackmore brushes Martyn, of St Helens, aside during Leeds Rhinos' victory at Headingley on Saturday

ed, cleaned up the tricks and, significantly, conceded only two penalties in the second half, while St Helens sides are traditionally imbued yet surfaced fleetingly. Hanley's decision to drop Anthony Sullivan looked justified, as the wings were spare parts. One of the few times that Paul Newlove got the ball, he finished a superb move.

The errant forward trio of Davidson, Nickle and Mazaura would be advised to learn controlled aggression, which Ellery Hanley, the St Helens coach, once showed. The

uncompromising nature of Hanley's team was not so much in question as the flair, with which St Helens sides are traditionally imbued yet surfaced fleetingly. Hanley's decision to drop Anthony Sullivan looked justified, as the wings were spare parts. One of the few times that Paul Newlove got the ball, he finished a superb move.

Helens workrate, and the impetus of Jackson coming on at hooker for Leeds set in motion their opening try by Ryan Sheridan. The darting Sheridan was at the heart of their other try by Newton after Harris had kicked St Helens into submission. Atkinson pocketed a late consolation, but on the eve of a long JJB Super League campaign, the road ahead looks

rockier for Hanley than for his former club.

SCORERS: Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Sheridan, Newton, Goale: Harris (8). St Helens: Tries: Newlove, Atkinson. Goale: Long (4).

LEEDS RHINOS: I. Harris, L. Powell, R. Blackmore, G. Jackson, F. Cummings, D. Powell, R. Sheridan, M. Atkinson, T. Newton, D. Eley, A. Murray, A. Farrell, M. Garsdale, Substitutes: M. St. Helens, P. Atkinson, C. Smith, T. Stewart, P. Newlove, F. Tullage, T. Martyn, S. Long, J. O'Neil, K. Cunningham, P. Davidson, A. Farrell, S. Nicke, Substitutes: K. Ito, P. Atkinson, V. Velasco, P. Wellers. Referee: S. Carrington (Widnes)

Wolves begin to justify bold optimism

Warrington Wolves.....34
Halifax Blue Sox.....4

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THERE is nothing like a cup run to inspire confidence, and with new backers and Peter Deakin, from Saracens, newly installed in the chief executive's seat, Widnerspool is a hotbed of optimism. And with justification after Warrington Wolves' victory yesterday.

The feel-good factor was confirmed by an impressive defeat of Halifax Blue Sox, for whom the first round of JJB Super League matches next weekend presents an early chance for revenge. Halifax were eliminated early from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup last year and reached the play-offs by finishing third in the league, but Warrington gave a clear indication of the stiffer competition this season.

More satisfying than tries by four of their back line and another by Roper, a centre converted to loose forward, was restricting Halifax to just two penalty goals by Holroyd. "That's the best defence since I've been here," Darryl van de Velde, the Warrington coach, said.

Halifax were only 10-4 behind and had been restored to their full complement, with Mercer's re-emergence from the sin-bin, when they were caught offside in the 54th minute. Roper tapped to

himself on the Warrington 20-metre line and was out of sight by the time that the Blue Sox players realised what was happening. Warrington were inspired by the live-wire Briers at scrum half, while Nutley, the prop, was everywhere. With Farrar hugely influential in the rear-guard effort, Halifax never looked like adding to their points in the second half.

Three of Warrington's tries got the green light by the video referee, the first after five minutes when a charge down by McCurrie came under scrutiny in the build-up to a score by the 34-year-old Forster, the only survivor of Warrington's last Wembley final appearance, in 1990. Warrington could have paid for a clutch of missed chances in the first half, but with a strong wind at their backs in the second, they blew away a disjointed Halifax.

Hume's clever footwork enabled him to profit from spillages by Bloem and Gibson. Kohn-Love eased past Cardis to score beneath the posts, before Penny's late try was converted by Briers.

SCORERS: Warrington Wolves: Tries: Forster, Roper, Harris, Kohn-Love, Penny. Goale: Briers (7). Halifax Blue Sox: Goale: Holroyd (2). WARRINGTON WOLVES: I. Penny, J. Roper, T. Kohn-Love, A. Hume, M. Forster, S. Wilson, L. Briers, M. Hinton, D. Farrar, D. Nutley, S. Gibson, S. McCurrie, J. Roper, Substitutes: D. Hanger, M. Wainwright, G. Chambers, J. Kohn.

HALIFAX BLUE SOX: G. Holroyd, J. Bloem, D. Gibson, A. Craig, D. Bouvier, G. Chester, G. Garth, P. Broadhurst, P. Rowley, K. Serrin, R. Marshall, C. Gillespie, G. Mercer, Substitutes: N. Penney, M. Moore, D. Cardis, D. Clark. Referee: R. Smith (Castleford)

Salford storm through

Huddersfield Giants.....14
Salford Reds.....22

By PETER WILSON

SALFORD Red's much-changed team still have their sights set on going one step further than a year ago when they reached the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final.

They booked their quarter-final place against Castleford Tigers by holding off the spirited challenge of Huddersfield Giants and it was a credit to both sides that they were able to beat the elements - driving rain and a strong wind - to provide such an entertaining contest.

The long-anticipated battle of the scrum halves was edged by Martin Crompton, who scored one try and was behind much of the damage to the Huddersfield cause.

Not that blame for the Giants' defeat could be heaped on the shoulders of Bobby Goulding, his three-quarter rival, who never gave an inch in a gruelling struggle.

A penalty by Goulding put Huddersfield in front but Salford were the first to exploit the conditions when Steve Blakeley halsted a high kick that Paul Cook failed to gather, and Crompton was able to pounce for the opening try after 17 minutes.

Huddersfield hit back in almost identical circumstances. This time it was Goulding who launched a high kick. Bobby Thompson who failed to gather and Danny Arnold who went over for the try. Goulding's conversion into the wind put the Giants in front, but their lead only lasted a couple of minutes before Gareth Casey crossed for the first of his two tries.

Facing a two-point deficit at the break, any optimism Huddersfield harboured was shattered five minutes into the second half, when a short kick from Crompton skidded across the wet surface and Casey timed his dive to perfection and touched down.

Jim Lenthian scored to keep the Giants in the hunt, but their chances disappeared three minutes before the end when Scott Martin crossed unchallenged for the score that took the Reds out of reach.

SCORERS: Huddersfield: Tries: Lenthian, Arnold. Goale: Goulding (3). Salford: Goale: Blakeley (4). Tries: Casey (2), Martin, Crompton. HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS: I. Arnold, P. Cook, J. Lenthian, P. Loughlin, A. Thompson, B. Goulding, N. Pritchard, D. Russell, B. Richards, D. Roughton, J. Berry, M. Spurr, Substitutes: N. Wright, P. Reilly, B. Hudson, I. Pritchard. Salford Reds: G. Broadhurst, J. Hayes, B. Thompson, G. Casey, P. Casey, S. Blakeley, M. Crompton, N. Bayne, T. Aker, P. Southam, H. Smith, D. Brown, D. Hume, Substitutes: S. Martin, R. Highton, G. Briggs, J. Farnham. Referee: S. Priday (Castleford)

Bulls avoid Rhinos in draw for last eight

LEEDS RHINOS and Bradford Bulls, the two favourites, were kept apart in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final draw last night (Christopher Irvine writes). The revitalised Warrington Wolves were presented with a difficult tie away to Bradford on Sunday week and an early return to his former club for Peter Deakin, their new chief executive.

The other televised match, on the BBC the day before, is likely to be the other all-JJB Super League tie between Castleford Tigers, who eliminated York last Friday, and Salford Reds. Widnes hung on against Leigh yesterday to win 20-17 and earned home advantage once more against Leeds.

Whitehaven are the only other Northern Ford Premier-

QUARTER-FINALS

London v Whitehaven
Castleford v Salford
Widnes v Leeds
Bradford v Warrington
□ Ties to be played weekend of March 13-14

ship side left in the competition after they beat Oldham 18-2. They face the longest trip in rugby league, from Cumbria, to face London Broncos at the Sloop Memorial Ground, Martin Oflah, who missed most of last season, scored London's only try as they survived a scare away at Hull Kingston Rovers in a grim 6-0 victory, which put them into the last eight for only the second time.

McNamara stands out

Wakefield Trinity Wildcats...8
Bradford Bulls.....26

By MARTIN RICHARDS

STEVE McNAMARA, the Bradford Bulls captain, whose place is by no means guaranteed in the strongest line-up, played a pivotal role as they gained a bruising passage into the quarter-finals of the Challenge Cup yesterday. Expectations of a runaway win for Bradford were not realised, for the Belle Vue mud and a swirling wind helped close the gap in class.

Wakefield lived up to their new name. Wildcats, even after Bradford had opened up a 14-2 lead after 21 minutes. Henry Paul put Bradford ahead when he picked up a loose ball to score wide out before Stuart Fielden, an impressive young forward,

crossed unopposed after McNamara's sweetly-timed pass had sucked in the Wakefield cover.

Wakefield, anxious to dispel fears that they will be the whipping boys of Super League this season, dug deep and came up with a rousing try from their Australian stand-off, Shane Kenward, a minute into the second half after Michael Withers had knocked on straight from the kick-off.

Bradford were suddenly on the back foot and it took another intervention by McNamara to settle matters. He threw only the faintest of dummies but the defence opened up invitingly and the loose forward charged through for a 58th-minute try which took all the sting out of Wakefield's revival. James Lowe, the hooker, added a fourth try with ten minutes remaining.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said: "It was an ugly match in ugly conditions and we didn't adapt well enough to the wind and the wet. But all credit to Wakefield who showed great character. But we didn't do the smart things very well today."

Bradford's scrum half, Paul Deacon, retired at half-time with a leg injury after landing three kicks at goal and Paul also received an injury, which forced him to leave the field in the second half.

SCORERS: Wakefield: Tries: Try: Kenward. Goale: Hodgson (2). Bradford Bulls: Tries: H. Paul, Fielden, McNamara, Lowe. Goale: Deacon (3). McNamara (2). WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS: A. Hodgson, L. Stoe, A. Bunker, K. Croucher, N. Law, S. Kenward, G. Tomkinson, F. Smith, R. Southam, A. Fahy, P. Ford, W. Pritchard, J. Kemp, Substitutes: D. March, W. McDonald, F. Walker, G. Law. BRADFORD BULLS: M. Werners, T. Vass, D. Pritchard, S. Bayne, N. McEvoy, H. Paul, P. Deacon, B. Macdonald, J. Lowe, S. Fielden, B. Dwyer, D. Boyle, S. Macdonald, Substitutes: N. Harrison, J. Donougher, M. Forster, W. Jowett. Referee: S. Nicholson (Whitehaven)

Bromsgrove win in usual style

By JOHN GOODBODY

THERE is little disputing the recent dominance of Bromsgrove at under-18 girls' hockey. Yesterday, in the rain and gusts of Milton Keynes, they took the British Aerospace national title for the third successive year with a performance of consummate maturity.

Last year they beat the other four regional winners in the finals by scoring 18 goals and conceding none with a team that included Lucilla Wright, the full England international. This season, they have Sally Walton and Jane Allen, who have both represented England schools, as well as three German age-group internationalists who are studying at the Worcestershire school for a year.

The cumulative effect has been impressive. Last Wednesday they warmed up for this tournament by drawing 0-0 with Cambridge University, who were virtually at full strength. Already winners of the national under-18 indoor title this season, Bromsgrove had few evident weaknesses yesterday as they completed a unique double of national championships.

They successively beat Arnold School, Blackpool, Wycombe High School, and King's Canterbury, all by 3-0. In the last game of the round they won 4-0 against Millfield, who earlier had been beaten 1-0 by Wycombe, but had looked the most likely challengers to Bromsgrove.

Eight of the Bromsgrove goals were scored by the long-striding Walton, who plays as an advanced striker and who also had nerve-misses with some deft reverse-stick shots. "Another day they would have

SPORT
IN SCHOOLS

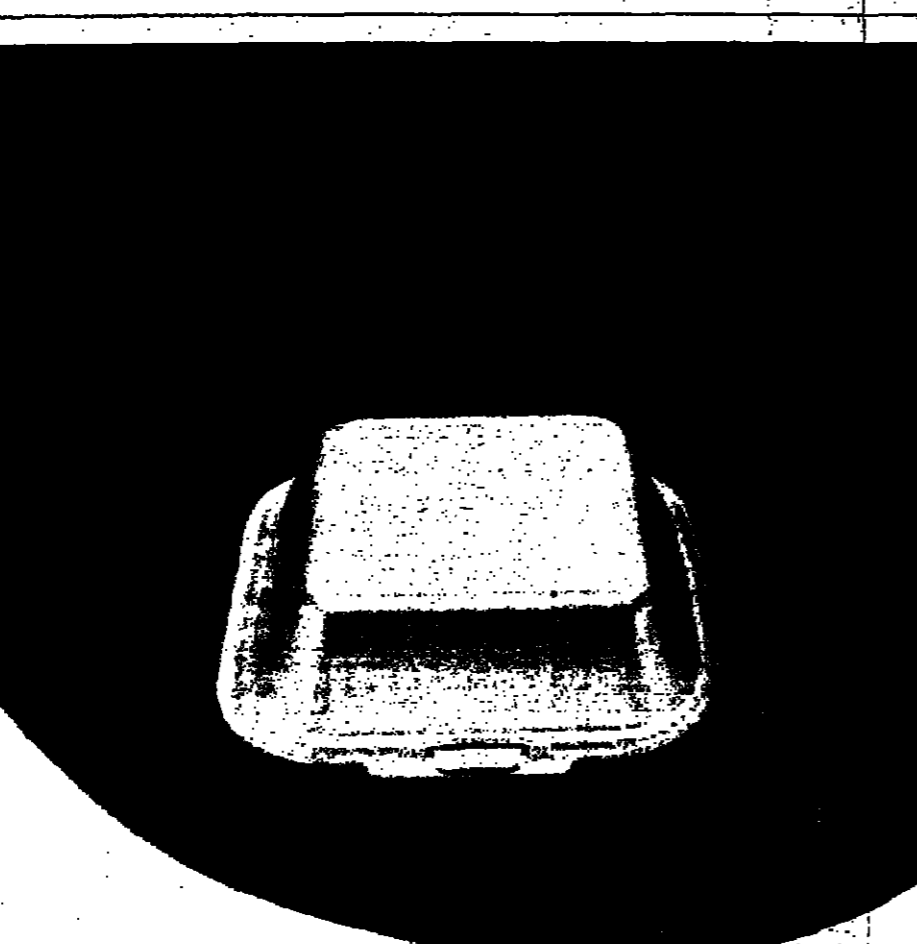
gone in," she said afterwards. "It was a real team performance from us but having the three Germans made it all possible."

The trio of Ulrike Patschkowski, Luisa Leisewitz and Laura Lemke gave an impetus to the team because of their physical presence and the difficulty opponents found in getting the ball away from them. They are part of a group of 28 Germans attending the independent school this year, although they do not receive any sports bursaries.

Caroline Ralph, the Bromsgrove team manager, said: "We got better and better as the day went on. The success of the under-18s has been the result of the girls playing together in the younger age groups and the results coming to fruition at senior level."

"We are almost there with the under-16s. The programme is coming through so that we have a concrete package at all age levels. It is a long-term process."

RESULTS: Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire 3 Arnold School, Blackpool 0; Millfield, Somerset 2 Wycombe HS, Buckinghamshire 1; Arnold 0 King's Canterbury 1; Wycombe 0 Bromsgrove 2; King's 0 Millfield 1; Wycombe 0 Arnold 0; Bromsgrove 3 King's 0; Arnold 0 Millfield 1; King's 0 Wycombe 1; Millfield 0 Bromsgrove 4. Final placings: 1, Bromsgrove 12pts; 2, Wycombe 7, 3, Millfield 6; 4, King's 5; 5, Arnold 1.



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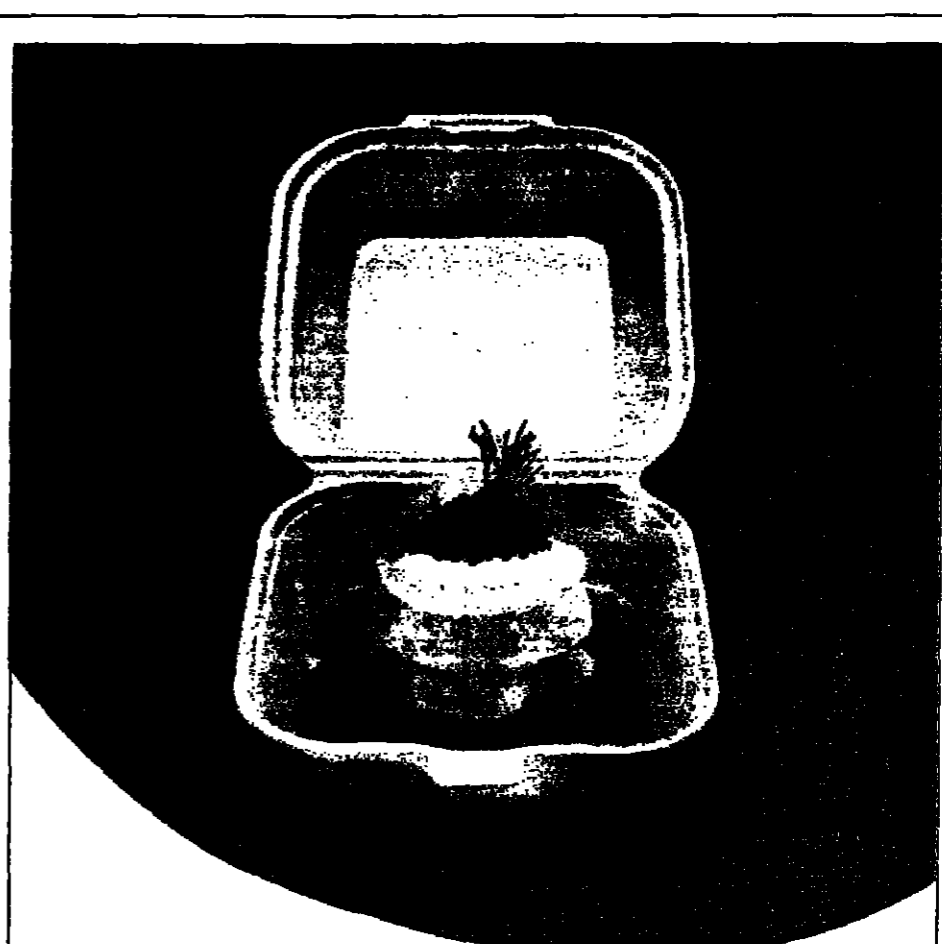
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THE TIMES

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ONE**

Our Fantasy Formula One game will put you in the driving seat for the thrills and spills of the new grand-prix season, opening in Melbourne next Sunday. McLaren's Mika Häkkinen will be battling to retain his Formula One crown against stiff opposition from former world champion Michael Schumacher in his Ferrari. Also hungry for success will be three British drivers, Damon Hill, David Coulthard and Eddie Irvine. The winner of our Fantasy Formula One title will drive away at the end of the season in a TVR Cerbera, valued at over £40,000. This dream machine has a top speed of more than 160mph and does 0-60 in 4.2 seconds. Second prize is £10,000 plus a trip for two to the 2000 Monaco Grand Prix. Third prize is £5,000 plus a pair of four-day passes for the 2000 British GP. There are also four-day

RUBEN BARBERIS



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THE PRIZES



STAR PRIZE The manager with the top score on our fantasy leaderboard after the final race of the season will win a £41,100 TVR Cerbera, plus a VIP trip for two to any one of next season's grands prix.
2ND PRIZE £10,000 plus a VIP trip for two to the 2000 Monaco Grand Prix.
3RD PRIZE £5,000 plus a pair of four-day passes to the 2000 British Grand Prix.
INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS The manager of the team that scores the most points in each grand prix will win a pair of four-day passes, with centre transfer, for the 1999 or 2000 British Grands Prix, courtesy of Silverstone.

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THE SCORING SYSTEM

DRIVERS For each lap completed: 1 point. **Finishing position:** 1st 60 points; 2nd 50; 3rd 40; 4th 30; 5th 25; 6th 20; 7th 17; 8th 15; 9th 14; 10th 13; 11th 12; 12th 11; 13th 10; 14th 9; 15th 8; 16th 7; 17th 6; 18th 5; 19th 4; 20th 3. **Qualifying position:** Pole 30 points; 2nd 25; 3rd 20; 4th 15; 5th 12; 6th 10; 7th 9; 8th 8; 9th 7; 10th 6; 11th 5; 12th 4; 13th 3; 14th 2; 15th 1; 16th 0. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position:** 3 points per place improved. **Fastest lap:** 10 points. **Penalty points:** Any incident resulting in a driver being made to start from the back of the grid or pit lane -10 points. Any incident resulting in elimination during a race -10 points. Not starting after qualifying for a race -10 points. Speeding in pit lane -5 points. Black flag -20 points.

CONSTRUCTORS **Finishing position (first car only):** 1st 30 points; 2nd 25; 3rd 20; 4th 15; 5th 12; 6th 10; 7th 9; 8th 8; 9th 7; 10th 6; 11th 5; 12th 4; 13th 3; 14th 2; 15th 1; 16th 0. **Penalty points:** Any incident resulting in a car being made to start from the back of the grid or pit lane -10 points. Any incident resulting in elimination during a race -10 points. Not starting after qualifying for a race -10 points. Speeding in pit lane -5 points.

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1999 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian Grand Prix. **Correctly predicting winning driver:** 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points.

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW



Damon Hill David Coulthard Mika Häkkinen Michael Schumacher Eddie Irvine

DRIVERS		CONSTRUCTORS	
GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
01 Mika Häkkinen	07 Eddie Irvine	01 Williams	01 Williams
02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	02 Benetton	02 Benetton
03 Damon Hill	09 Giancarlo Fisichella	03 Ferrari	03 Ferrari
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	04 Tyrrell	04 Tyrrell
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	05 Jordan	05 Jordan
06 Jacques Villeneuve	12 Mark Blundell	06 Minardi	06 Minardi

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TO ENTER BY PHONE

Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on 0640 67 88 88 (+44 870 901 4206 from Irish Republic). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone (most telephones with * and # keys are Touch-tone).

Follow the instructions on the line and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (maximum 16 characters), together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number (please note, you need to speak these details). You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry. You can enter a team at any time until noon on Thursday, March 4, 1999 to qualify for the start of the Australian Grand Prix.

TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply, the first of these is the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Give your Fantasy Formula One team name (maximum 16 characters), together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number. Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland should enclose a sterling cheque for £3 or provide their credit-card details. The entry fee for readers resident outside the UK or Republic of Ireland is £15. Post the form to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU7 1ZZ. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry.

For your Fantasy Formula One team to start scoring points at the Australian GP, which takes place in Melbourne next Sunday, postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday, March 3, 1999. Entries received after this date will only score points for any remaining grands prix.

THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. For readers resident outside the UK or Republic of Ireland the fee is £15. Post it to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU7 1ZZ. Your entry must be received by first post on Wednesday, March 3, 1999 to qualify for the Australian Grand Prix.

GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS

1st	2nd	3rd

GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS

Team Name (maximum of 16 characters) _____

I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.

Signature _____ Date _____

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 Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐
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RULES

1 Race results will be taken as those standing at midnight on the Sunday of each grand prix. Subsequent changes affecting those results, as decreed by the FIA, will be applied to Fantasy Formula One. 2 Changes of circumstances: If a driver is replaced for any reason you will be deemed to have chosen the new driver; if a driver transfers to another team you will keep that driver as your selection. 3 New drivers become available for transfer as and when they become participants in the Formula One season. 4 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score at the end of the competition a tie break will come into effect to decide the overall prize-winner. 5 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score for an individual race prize, the winner will be selected at random. 6 The computerised record of your entry will be considered to be the only, indisputable, and final record. 7 Prizes will only be awarded to teams which complete three drivers from Group A, three drivers from Group B, three constructors from Group C and three constructors from Group D. 8 There is no limit to the number of teams a person may enter. 9 Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only. Entries should take about seven minutes and cost 60p per min. Calls from payphones cost approximately double. 10 Promotional and explanatory copy relating to the game forms part of the terms and conditions for participation. 11 Entrants must be 18 or over. 12 The prize of a TVR Cerbera 4.2 does not include insurance. In the event of the winner being resident outside the UK, he/she will be responsible for all costs associated with arranging delivery from the UK. 13 Normal T.M. competition rules apply and the decisions of the editors are final. 14 Promoter: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Water, Surrey GU24 0JY.

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THE TIMES MONDAY
Chris McGrath
Dunwoody

RICHARD EVANS
THE TIMES MONDAY
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Dunwoody

SATURDAY'S
RESULTS

THE TIMES MONDAY
Chris McGrath
Dunwoody

Chris McGrath on a former champion smoothing over rough patches

Dunwoody shows fighting spirit

FIVE years ago, Racing Post Chase day at Kempton produced no fewer than eight Cheltenham Festival winners. While there might well have been one or two trials on Saturday that signposted the way to profit in the Cotswolds — where the delirium commences a fortnight tomorrow — perhaps the most significant test this year was passed on two legs rather than four.

Richard Dunwoody, who gave Dr Leunt an immaculate ride to win the Racing Post Chase, has rather given the im-



Dr Leunt and Dunwoody take control in the Racing Post Chase at Kempton on Saturday

RICHARD EVANS

Map: LAST OPTION
(3.30 Newcastle)

This progressive hunter-chaser best Double Thriller last season and looks well treated for his handicap debut.

NB: Chevalier Evans
(2.00 Newcastle)

Thunder found Goldfemur (14-1) for the Archaic, but on Saturday and in the Good Hand (13-1) came from the back to win.

pression in recent weeks that he is prey to some inhibition of body or soul.

Much the ugliest symptom had emerged at Ascot the previous Saturday, when a weighing-room scuffle with Mick Fitzgerald tarnished the gracious reputation of both men, merited equally in and out of the saddle.

They have evidently put their spat behind them and the temptation to dramatise the episode has been sensibly resisted by others, too. The stewards, for instance, tread a discreetly blind eye.

Between two such senior jockeys, it was a telling measure of the stresses of their per-

ous business. Sometimes, grievances forged in the heat of racecourse battle are most effectively doused by primitive means, to the superficial cost of hissing and steam.

Even so, the incident surely compromised Dunwoody's standing among his colleagues. Its larger context compounded concern about the former champion, whose talent is so justly treasured.

An old arm injury was revived by a fall in January, and he has had one or two other nasty crash landings recently. He is heroically brave, make no mistake, with an utterly intransigent attitude to pain. For whatever reason, however, he has

endured a thin time with winners of late, ending a barren sequence of 28 rides at Doncaster on Thursday.

Though he will resent any such inference, this recent lack of conviction could be attributable to two growing preoccupations.

First there is Florida Pearl, of whom Ireland has such

crushing expectations in the Cup Cheltenham Gold Cup. This horse could provide ample incentive for Dunwoody.

On the other hand, disappointment might conceivably prompt him to wonder what lies beyond the other imminent junction in his career.

His second success on Satur-

LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS	W	R	S	PP	W	R	S	PP
M. P. Jones	119	71	11	1	27.75	16	10	1
M. P. Jones	78	60	52	3	27.75	16	10	1
P. Nicholls	67	61	29	2	25.82	14	9	1
P. Nicholls	58	51	48	2	24.88	13	8	1
M. P. Jones	53	28	28	3	23.21	12	7	1

JOCKEYS	W	R	S	PP	W	R	S	PP
A. P. McCoy	96	96	36	2	24.88	13	8	1
M. P. Jones	89	49	42	2	24.88	13	8	1
M. P. Jones	89	49	42	2	24.88	13	8	1
M. P. Jones	89	49	42	2	24.88	13	8	1
M. P. Jones	89	49	42	2	24.88	13	8	1

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Kempton Park
Going: good to soft in places

2.20 (2m ch) 1. Super Tactile (A. P. McCoy) 11-10; 2. Kadestrol (7-2); 3. Arden (10-1); 4. Larkspur (10-1); 5. Larkspur (10-1); 6. Larkspur (10-1); 7. Larkspur (10-1); 8. Larkspur (10-1); 9. Larkspur (10-1); 10. Larkspur (10-1); 11. Larkspur (10-1); 12. Larkspur (10-1); 13. Larkspur (10-1); 14. Larkspur (10-1); 15. Larkspur (10-1); 16. Larkspur (10-1); 17. Larkspur (10-1); 18. Larkspur (10-1); 19. Larkspur (10-1); 20. Larkspur (10-1); 21. Larkspur (10-1); 22. Larkspur (10-1); 23. Larkspur (10-1); 24. Larkspur (10-1); 25. Larkspur (10-1); 26. Larkspur (10-1); 27. Larkspur (10-1); 28. Larkspur (10-1); 29. Larkspur (10-1); 30. Larkspur (10-1); 31. Larkspur (10-1); 32. Larkspur (10-1); 33. Larkspur (10-1); 34. Larkspur (10-1); 35. Larkspur (10-1); 36. Larkspur (10-1); 37. Larkspur (10-1); 38. Larkspur (10-1); 39. Larkspur (10-1); 40. Larkspur (10-1); 41. Larkspur (10-1); 42. Larkspur (10-1); 43. Larkspur (10-1); 44. Larkspur (10-1); 45. Larkspur (10-1); 46. Larkspur (10-1); 47. 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When there's more to fishing than fish

Brian Clarke finds that a watching brief on new waters can pay dividends

The motto of a club that I belong to is *Piscator non solum piscatur*. It more or less translates as "there is more to fishing than fish". Roderick Haig-Brown, the great English writer who lived in America, went further. He suggested that fishing might just be an excuse to be near rivers.

Anyone who has held a rod for a season or two will agree with the first. Last week, exploring a new piece of water that I will be fishing this year, I came close to believing the second. I had gone to get my bearings: to relate the plan on the map to the view from the bank; to dip myself into the sights and sounds; to drool just a little. So I took no rod.

It was a slogging walk. The river had been over its banks for weeks and had just slid back. Pools were winking from the meadows like scattered coins. The grass was laid flat as though by a wind. The debris of the flood was all around — trapped in trailing branches or left high and dry where the water had dropped it.

The first place I came to was a shallow bay. Bird tracks and animal tracks marked pathways around the margins. A sudden movement smudged my eye and I half-glanced fur. It crossed the ground between a couple of fallen branches and melted between them. It had been low and fluid, had been there and gone so quickly that I might have imagined it. A pity that I hadn't. A mink. Damn.

A little upstream, a willow had fallen over the water. It was massively tangled, so dense that it pushed the heavy water into the far bank. Beyond the tree's end, the river raced. Behind the tree in summer, there would be slow water. A crinkle on the surface would mark the divide. Fish would be able to lie in the slow water and dine on the food that the fast water dropped.

The crinkle would be an excellent place for chub, dace, roach, trout — you name it. Barbel might lie out in the current. There would be at least one pike in the calm behind the branch. It would lie there, cold as a mortuary slab, waiting for a victim, its fins turning and idling, its tail-edge crinkling, ready to move forward like an aimed shadow, ready



One to bank on: catching a prized predator will bring smiles, but sometimes just being near to a river may be enough to satisfy an angler

to gather itself for its ravening rush.

Further upstream, I startled a snipe. A heron laboured overhead, tilted a little, bent its wings over curves of air and glided down them into the near middle-distance. The pennants of last year's sedges streamed in a non-existent wind. Ice in a puddle crunched underfoot.

I had been told about the Bailey bridge. It crossed the top of one of the beats that is reserved for trout fishing. The water slid under the bridge and widened into a great sweep of pewter, rumpling and racing. In summer it would be shallow enough to wade. Sometimes, I had

'There would be at least one pike behind the branch, lying cold as a mortuary slab, waiting for a victim'

been told, great fish were taken from this stretch, mostly at last light.

I stood on the bridge and looked downstream. The world faded. I could feel the warmth of June and see the sun going low and the ripe-for-mating flies gauging the air. Broad backs would break the surface and rings ebb out. That will

be the wading line, if the bottom is good. The likely casting points would be there and there. I smiled. All nonsense, of course. When the river dropped, its character would change utterly and there would be no real telling where the fish would be. Still, I got two just by day-dreaming.

I turned downstream and

crossed to the carrier that has the hatches in the middle. A bear can turn in endless circles in a vortex behind one of the gates. An oink of Canada geese waited overhead. Two fallow deer, wearing their white hearts on their rumps, appeared from behind a bush and bounded away.

The carrier is trout-only, as well. It looked as though it was going to be early-season water with only the upper part holding fish when the river had dropped. I hoped that summer would prove me wrong, which would suit me fine. The fishing was going to be upstream fly only, which suited me dino.

To the mill. Another eventful walk, now through fine rain and a rising breeze. Snowdrops were out under an ageing oak. A heap of matted feathers told of disaster for something else: nature as red as ever in tooth and beak. A formation of ducks fledged downwind, like an arrowhead homing. A line of young willows marked a short reach of bank, their shoots so red that they made each tree glow. Close-up in the rain, every twig was threaded with half-moons of cut light.

The mill looked great and the mill-pools awesome. In one direction there were swims that looked made for barbel. In the other, sitting like a garden gnome under a green umbrella, an old hand was leaning back in his chair, watching his float.

He had fished this river for 40 years. It was good but not what it used to be. Dredging to reduce the flooding had ruined the bottom and now there weren't enough waterfalls to feed the little fish. Fewer little fish meant fewer big fish, he explained — but if I put in the hours I would get the results, he could promise me that. Definitely.

I took a look at the big bends upstream — at the Log Swim, at Blue Bridge Pool and at somewhere else — then paused under an ancient tree to look around. There was a brush of wings and a great bird suddenly broke cover above my head and waited noiselessly away. What a treat: a barn owl so close that I could have touched it with a rod-end. I had a wonderful view of it, saw its dished eyes clearly, saw clearly the pale honey of its back before the bird showed its belly and instantly turned white.

I watched the owl out of sight then turned back to the car. I did not hurry. By the time I was into it and scrunching down the track, I was as relaxed and mellow as any day has left me. It had been a full day's fishing — almost — even without the rod. *Piscator non solum piscatur*. Just being near a river can be enough.

□ Brian Clarke's column appears on the first Monday of each month

BOXING

Dunne's talents shown on Holiday

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

COLIN DUNNE made new friends as he was finally given the exposure on television to prove his worth. The four million viewers who watched him on ITV on Saturday night cannot have failed to see what a crowd-pleaser the World Boxing Union lightweight champion is. Dunne took on Phillip Holiday, of South Africa, who many thought to be well above his class — and beat him out of sight.

Holiday was only able to impose his much-vaunted technical superiority in short bursts and had to keep moving forward in the hope of wiping out the points deficit. As a result, the bout moved to an exciting conclusion — with the crowd on its feet as Holiday tried to find a big punch and Dunne refused to give way.

After receiving a cut just below his hairline in the fifth round, Holiday seemed to lose his earlier sharpness and concentration as blood poured steadily down his face. The ring doctor said that the flow of blood was not getting in his eyes and so it would not have been proper to stop the contest. Dunne took full advantage.

The aim of Dunne's manager, Terry Toole, is to now get his boxer a contest that will make some money. John Hyland, the promoter, was hoping to make a match with Billy Scherer, the European champion. However, Mickey Duff, Scherer's manager, said that, as Scherer had a chance to challenge for the WBC title, Dunne would have to wait.

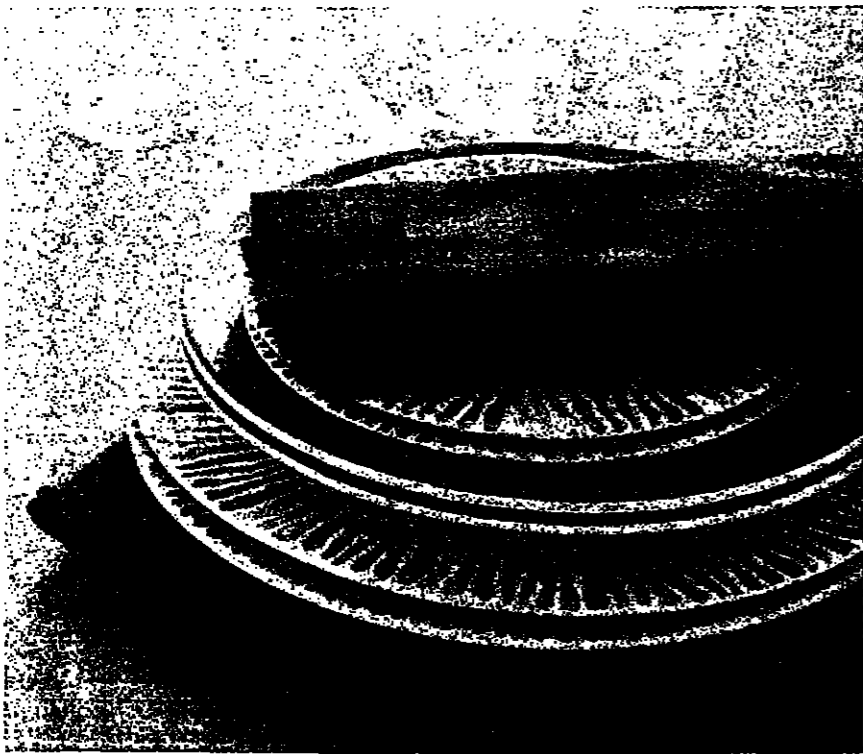
Referring to the gash Holiday sustained, and no doubt the fact that Scherer tends to cut easily, Duff parried Hyland's offer. "Dunne is dangerous with his head," he said. "With the world title fight in the offing for Scherer, it would be an unnecessary fight to take."

Oldham death, page 5

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

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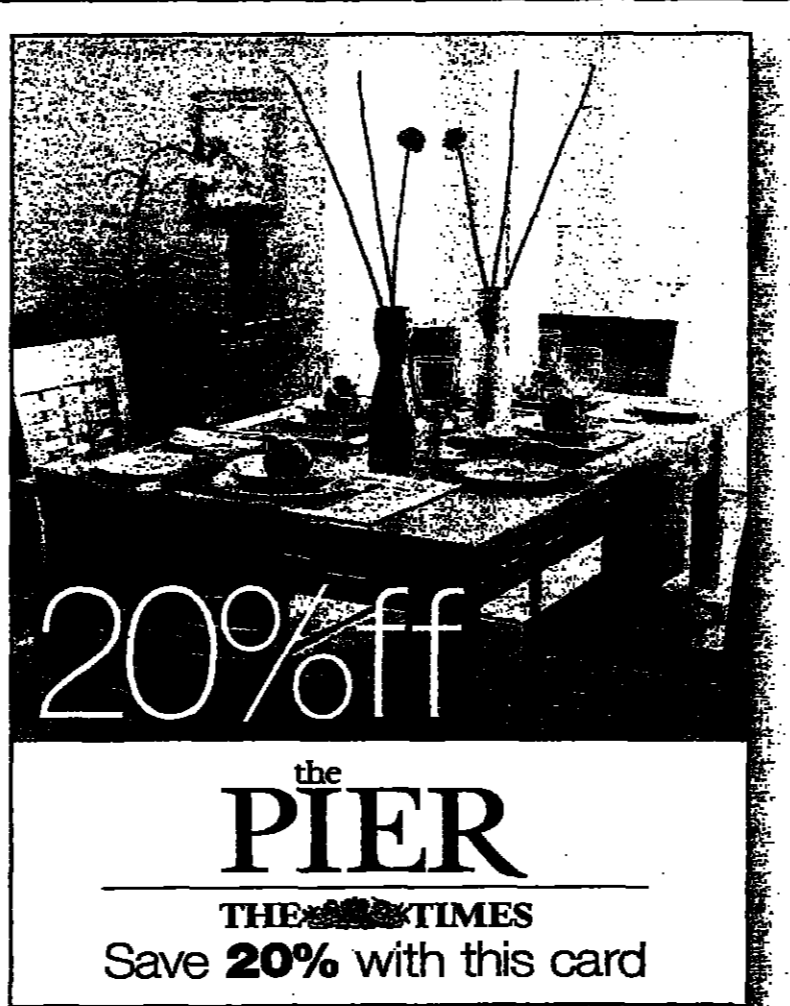
Cut the cost of shopping with your Times Pier card, inserted in today's newspaper

Today, The Times offers you 20% off your shopping bill when you spend £50 or more in a single transaction at The Pier. The offer is available from Wednesday, March 3 until Monday, April 5 at all 18 stores of The Pier nationwide. To qualify for the 20% discount, attach four differently numbered tokens to the shopping card inserted in today's paper and present them in store. If you spend £50 or more with this card you will receive a second 20% discount voucher to use at a later date. Choose from The Pier's extensive range of furniture, textiles, tableware, accessories and gifts for your home and garden. Many of the designs are handmade and exclusive to The Pier, and come in three distinct looks for the spring/summer.

Zee is derived from the calm simplicity of oriental designs. Neutral colours and sensual textures are keynotes to this collection. Pieces include simple china, exotic candles and elegant woven beach furniture. Sorbet will add a soft, feminine touch with sheer textiles, delicate embroidery and pretty accessories that are perfect to freshen up your home this spring.

Brighties are reminiscent of hot sunny days on the beach, a vibrant collection of summer accessories, including picnic ware, tableware, textiles and garden furniture.

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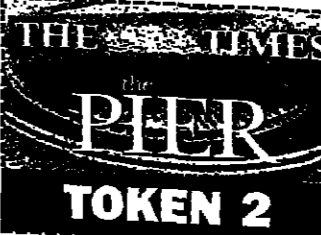
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CHANGING TIMES

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Witness: Trice, Argent, Briers, Cantillon,
Crawford, Gault, Hewitt, Salisbury, Lelands

Trics: Bowker, Burrows, Murray. **Goals:** Kendrick 2 **Dropped goal:** Kendrick **Att:** 4,054

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ter (GB) 23.82 100mc D. Salariev (UK) 52.19
200mc Salariev, 1.55.59 Medley: 100mc C.
Koolen (Ger) 55.47 200mc Better 1.58.46 Brit-

sh. placings: 4 B Lumsden 2 01 76 Women:
 Freestyle 50m: S Alopi (GB) 25 06 100m:
 Alopi 54.33 200m: F van Almelk (Ger)
 58 31 British placings: 4, N Jackson
 59 13, 800m: F Vliegus (Hol) 8 33 63 Brit-
 ish placings: 4, R Cooke 8 36 89 Black-
 strokes: 50m: S Völker (Ger) 28 06 100m: A
 Buschschulte (Ger) 1 00 02 200m: Busch-
 schulte 2 09 04 Breaststrokes: 50m: A Kovacs
 (Hun) 31 48 100m: Kovacs 1 07 47 200m:
 Kovacs 2 24 54 Butterfly: 50m: E Jake (Ger)
 27 61 100m: J Orsi (Jap) 59 78 200m:
 Orsi 2 08 84 Medley: 50m: F Vlachova
 (Cze) 1 02 80 200m: Nishikawa 2 12 31

TENNIS

[illegible]

WEEK AHEAD

[illegible]

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Kilmarnock

[illegible]

Valley Tigers v Milton Keynes Lions (8 0), Worthing Bears v Birmingham Bulls (6 0)

[illegible]

[illegible]

anyone	9	6	0	3	185	127	12
occasions	8	6	0	2	158	142	12
redwood	8	6	0	2	153	130	12

Const	8	5	0	3	201	129	10
Darys	5	5	0	4	179	154	10
Donner	4	4	1	4	108	85	9
Jennifer	7	4	0	3	130	105	8
Myrica	6	3	0	3	115	121	6
Yvonne	6	3	0	6	150	197	6
Rachel	7	2	1	4	156	211	5
Mumme	7	2	1	4	35	121	5
Margaret	8	1	0	7	102	202	2

COND DIVISION: Bective Rangers 19
 John 18, DLSF 17 Malone 15; Darry 24
 22; DLSF 22; Uungahmore 30 Old Bel-
 21; Portlaoine 20; Carrigrohane 19;
 8 Wanderers 13; Sunda West 19
 19; Wicklow 10; UCC 30; Ballinaghy 10.

SENIOR 12 TOURNAMENT:

Cats (SA) 36
 18; Berries 22; Orago Highlanders 19
 19; Island Blues 13; Queensland Seaford
 10; Slomans (SA) 42 Northern Blue 19
 19; San Sharks 13 New South Wales 13.



2. Olton and West Wyalong
Shrewsbury 2 Coventry

[illegible]

ROBERT UNION

Unopposed	19	20
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Unopposed	95	96
Unopposed	97	98
Unopposed	99	100

FOOTBALL FOOTBALL

WORLD'S TOP 10 (45) Northampton v Warrington
St Helens v Hull Kingston Rovers (7-45)
Leigh Centurions v Torquay (7-45)

U20 WINNERS SHIELDS: Northampton
second place; Rochdale v Wigan

COTTON LEAGUE: Third division
Preston v Colwyn Bay

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Solihull Manchester Storm (8-0)
London Knights v Chester Storm (7-0)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg
Dynamo Kyiv v Arsenal (1-0), Kaiserslautern (2-1)
Werder vs Olympique (7-45), Middlesbrough
vs Internazionale (7-45), Real Madrid vs
Barcelona (6-0)

CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sheffield
Wednesday v Wigan (45-15)

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division:
Aston v Bradford (7-45); O'Faly v Oxford
(7-45); Swindon v Watford (45-15)

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division:
Barnet v Colchester (7-30)

OTHER SPORT

RUGBY UNION

LYOUDS TSB FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: France v Wales (at Stade de France, 20); Ireland v England (at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, 20)

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v Italy (at Murrayfield, 20)

FLIGHTS: LEAGUE: First division:
Liverpool v Nottingham (3-0), Newcastle v
Hartley (3-0) Second division north:
Sheff Wed v Barnet (3-0), second division south:
Colton v Berkly (3-0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Basketball League: Great Britain London Lions v Sheffield Sharks (7-0)
Great Britain London Lions v London Towers v Derby Storm (3-0), Manches-

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague:
Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0)

THURSDAY
FOOTBALL
EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Chelsea vs Valencia (8.00); Tottenham vs Fiorentina (8.00); Borussia Dortmund vs Fiorentina (8.00); Panionios vs Lazio (7.45); Velez vs Al Mawtara (7.30).

OTHER SPORT
HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights vs Cardiff Devils (9.00), Newcastle Riverkings vs Stratford Bison (7.15).

FRIDAY
FOOTBALL
EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: Chelsea vs Valencia (8.00); Tottenham vs Fiorentina (8.00); Borussia Dortmund vs Fiorentina (8.00); Panionios vs Lazio (7.45); Velez vs Al Mawtara (7.30).

OTHER SPORT
HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights vs Cardiff Devils (9.00), Newcastle Riverkings vs Stratford Bison (7.15).

SUNDAY
FOOTBALL
FA CUP: Sixth round: Manchester United vs Chelsea (2.00); Newcastle vs Everton (4.00).
TENNIS: SCOTTISH: Cup: Fifth round: Rangers vs Falkirk (3.10).

RUGBY UNION
TENNIS: VELVET CUP: Quarter-finals: Gordon vs Liddle (3.00).
TENNIS: VELVET CUP: Semi-finals: First division: Cusins vs Jed-Ford (3.00).

FOOTBALL Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

RUGBY UNION

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: France v Ireland (6.30), Scotland v England (7.0)

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Ireland v England (Scotland v Italy) (8.15)

IRISH RUGBY: Worcester v Coventry (7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE: Wigan v Hull (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Bundesliga League: Bayern Munich v London Towers (6.10, Edinburgh: Rangers v Celtic) (7.30)

ICE HOCKEY: Sweden: Sundsvens IF

HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Nottingham Panthers v Sheffield Steelers (7.30)

[illegible]

Jegar	19	7	111	356	393	43	3	25	Cume	13	10	0	3	317	243	4	24
Kwood	18	5	112	307	352	48	6	22	Hewick	14	8	0	6	284	337	5	37
W	18	3	113	232	462	42	2	16									

[illegible]

Cork Const	8	5	0	3	201	128	10
St Marys	9	5	0	4	179	154	10
St Marys	8	1	1	1	142	127	10

grew Homeless: Trish: B: Al Docherty,	Shannon	7	4	0	3	105	8
grew: Patsy: Conn: E: Marn: 2	Ballymerna	6	3	0	3	115	12
E: Marn: 2 Watsonians: Trish: Dick-	Blackrock: Call	9	0	0	6	150	6
AST: 400	Clontarf: 150	21	0	0	0	150	21
	Terrureu	7	2	1	4	36	125
	Galwegians	8	1	0	7	102	202
ick: 21 Haria's P: 47							
ick: Trish: Cranston: 2, Gray: Pats:							
ick: 2 Haria's P: Trish: Waker: 3							
ick: 2 Haria's P: Conn: Ross: 5 Pats: Ross:							
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Forest: 27 Currie							
Forest: Trish: Lucile: 2 Lind							

Donaldson 2 HT: 13-27.

Be it with flowers or hampers, pamper her

Family life has changed dramatically over the past century and will continue to do so into the next, but on the eve of the millennium the dream of the perfect mother continues to hover on the edges of our lives. Because the role of motherhood is such an emotive one it is easy to place it on a pedestal and find fault with mothers who are thought not to measure up.

Hardly a week goes by without mothers who are single, mothers who work, mothers who are too old and those who are too young coming in for some form of criticism.

Even the celebration of Mother's Day, or Mothering Sunday, held on the fourth Sunday in Lent since the Middle Ages (this year it falls on March 14), was originally an onerous one. It was the day on which the congregations of daughter churches honoured the mother church by visiting it in processions, carrying banners. After the Reformation this solemn celebration was transferred to honour the mother of the family.

There are no banners now, but whether you celebrate Mother's Day by serving her breakfast in bed, with freshly baked croissants (frozen beforehand, then slightly heated), a new honey or jam pot as a keepsake and a spray of flowers, or whether you organise a surprise

Susan MacDonald offers advice on what to buy for Mothering Sunday

trip to Venice for the weekend — a dream city for a much-loved mum — it is the honouring of her individual worth that counts.

Magazine articles abound with ideas on what to give. If she really has a sense of humour, there is a Swatch watch with the words "Dear mum, it's time to say thank you" there on the face.

Lovely though presents are, Mother's Day is not just about giving treats. It is also the day for letting her know how much she is valued and appreciated. Giving a complete fashion or facial makeover would be great, giving a new frying pan would not — unless it is one she would really love to have.

It is important to think seriously about what to buy, and to think ahead. Trying to order flowers the afternoon before Mother's Day can be a nightmare. Phone lines are often jammed and flower shops sold out.

Flowers Direct offers flowers not always available in this country, particularly at this time of the year, and Blooms By Post specialises in orchids.

Ordering is made easier by the number of Mother's Day flowers

and presents — such as hampers — available on the Internet.

If you live in or near East London, the Sunday morning Columbia Road flower market is not only a lovely place to stroll around, but it also provides a wonderful array of plants and cut flowers at market prices, and the street is lined with shops selling ceramic pots, garden and house ornaments and antique knickknacks.

Stylish transparent Perspex bowls and dishes can be filled with chocolates, nuts or fruit for the occasion and it is easy to find brands of bathroom toiletries that come in bottles so elegant that they just cannot be thrown away. There is also some beautiful costume jewellery around — this may be something she thinks about buying but never gets round to doing.

And if you find you are stuck with buying flowers at the petrol station on Sunday morning, purchase a couple of bunches in the same colour range and make them into one large bunch. The idea of the gift, whether large or small, is to pamper and bring pleasure.

The responsibility of being a mother can weigh heavy. After all,

it is not a nine-to-five job. There is no retirement age and the nagging feeling that it could be done better never goes away.

Nor does the sense of responsibility, although the role alters dramatically as toddlers progress to adults. However much heart-strings are tugged, mothers need to adapt.

The rules of motherhood aim to help them to live their own lives, extend a love so great that they do not feel deprived but not so encompassing that they feel smothered.

Mothers should never interfere but always be aware of what is going on, so as to offer the right advice when needed. Children should be neither shown up nor put down. Mothers should dress neither frumpishly nor garishly and not draw attention to themselves when picking children up from school.

A mother can relax and be herself once her children grow up, but she should never slack off in her role. The need for love, comfort and a shoulder to lean on continues, and becomes even more complicated when children become parents and mothers become grandmothers — another role and yet another set of rules.



Mother's Day is not just about giving gifts, but letting her know how much she is appreciated

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THUR 11th March

FRI 12th March

SAT 13th March

SUN 14th March

MON 15th March

TUE 16th March

WED 17th March

THUR 18th March

FRI 19th March

SAT 20th March

SUN 21st March

MON 22nd March

TUE 23rd March

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Chancery Division

Law Report March 1 1999

Queen's Bench Division

Damages for breach of fiduciary duty

Nationwide Building Society v Various Solicitors (No 3)
Before Mr Justice Blackburne
[Judgment February 2]

The correct approach to equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty, except where the fiduciary had acted dishonestly or in bad faith, was to assess what actual loss had resulted from the breach, having regard to the scope of the duty broken.

The court could have regard to any evidence which, on the evidence, could properly be drawn as to what would have happened if the fiduciary had performed his duty. Failing any such evidence, the beneficiary was entitled to be placed in the position he was in before the breach occurred. That assumed that the beneficiary could show that but for the breach of duty, he would not have acted in the way which had caused his loss.

Where, in order to establish a breach of fiduciary duty it was necessary to find that the fiduciary was consciously disloyal to the beneficiary, the fiduciary was disabled from asserting that the beneficiary contributed to the loss which he suffered flowing from the breach.

Mr Justice Blackburne so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when considering 12 claims of the plaintiff, Nationwide Building Society, against 12 firms of solicitors retained by it, inter alia, to investigate and report on title for breach of common law duties, and, in some cases, breach of fiduciary duty.

The plaintiff made mortgage advances to 12 borrowers each of which was secured by a first charge over the borrower's property. The borrowers defaulted and on sale of the properties the price realised fell far short of the sum required to discharge the loan.

In each case, the solicitor retained by the plaintiff to investigate and report on title also acted for the borrower in question. The cases exhibited unusual features such as the existence of a sub-sale or an agreement by the vendor to

discharge the borrower's expenses of the transaction by varying the purchase price.

The plaintiff sued the solicitors claiming that in breach of duty they had failed to disclose those features which, if disclosed, would have led the plaintiff to withdraw its offer of advance.

The duties alleged included express duties under the terms of the retainers, implied duties including a duty to inform the plaintiff of any matters of which the solicitor was aware which a reasonably competent conveyancing solicitor would conclude might be relevant to the valuation of the property or some other aspect of the plaintiff's decision whether to lend and if so how much, and breach of fiduciary duty including the fiduciary's duty not to place himself in a position where his duties to his two principals conflicted.

The cases raised, inter alia, the question of the correct test for assessing equitable compensation where breach of fiduciary duty was established.

Mr Nicholas Patten, QC, Mr Timothy Higginson, Mr Ian Gatt, Mr Tom Leach and Mr Michael Eynon, Nationwide, Mr Nicholas Davidson, QC, Mr Jonathan Simpkins, Mr Francis Bacon, Mr William Finley, Mr Tony Oakley and Mr Spike Charlwood for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE BLACKBURNE said that one of the issues which had arisen was whether, where breach of fiduciary duty was alleged, the "what if" approach to assessing damages at common law was in point, that is, whether, assuming causation in the sense of a causal connection between breach and loss had been shown, it was relevant to establish what course of action the plaintiff would have followed if the solicitor had carried out his duty.

His Lordship extensively reviewed the authorities, including *Lending Loan and Savings Company v Brickenden* (1934) 3 DLR 465 and *Tanger Holdings Ltd v Redfern (a firm)* (1996) AC 421.

Among practitioners, such forum shopping was called "deploying the Belgian torpedo".

No pleadings responsive to Sepracor's writ and statement of claim having been served, on December 4, the first defendant petitioned the High Court to revoke Sepracor's UK patent and launched the present notice of motion to strike out its writ and statement of claim on the ground, inter alia, that it was not open to Sepracor to sue here in respect of infringement in other countries when the validity of the patents themselves were in issue.

Anyone uncontaminated by familiarity with the European Patent Convention and having to litigate in a national court, might think Germany, the source of all the Hoechst drugs to be sold in Europe, was the obvious forum for seeking validity and infringement.

But that was the course both sides wished to avoid: Hoechst wanting the German and French issues decided in Belgium; Sepracor in England. Further, in relation to all countries except England, Sepracor wanted to restrain local inquiries without using the local companies' primary responsibility for alleged infringements.

In the light of *Fort Dodge Ltd v Alko Nobel NV* (1998) FSR 222 Sepracor had conceded, without formally agreeing, that the pleaded claims in relation to the foreign designations were not justifiable here so all the relevant parts of the pleadings and particulars of infringement would be struck out.

Mr Waugh had also cited *Sachar Corporation v Wilf* (1993) Ch 410 as justifying a strike-out of those parts under Order 15, rule 5(1) or Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court as likely to prejudice embarrassment or delay the trial of the purely domestic issues.

His Lordship did not accept that authority as justifying that course. Courts here frequently had to decide issues of foreign law.

The choice was between one action here, with evidence relating to 12 countries' laws, nearly identical.

As most of ESB's service contracts only provided for the company to be paid in the event of its efforts on behalf of the client being successful, the company's activities were initially largely financed through loans made by Mr MacPherson.

When the plaintiffs decided to leave ESB in February 1991, a revised shareholders' agreement dated February 28, 1991 provided for loss received after that date to be applied in the following order: in payment of accrued liabilities; in repayment of the loans made by Mr MacPherson; in repayment of loans made by Mr Lyman.

Any surplus was to be distributed between the two plaintiffs and Mr Lyman in the proportions 25:25:50 as payment for consultancy services provided by them to ESB. Under this provision each of the plaintiffs claimed £38,852.94.

His Lordship rejected Mr Wright's submission that the revised shareholders' agreement constituted an unlawful distribution of company property contrary to section 23 of the Companies Act 1985.

The agreement provided for the payment of the company's overheads, and the balance was more naturally to be regarded as deferred remuneration for those who had previously worked without pay in the expectation of receiving a share of the company's future profits than as a gratuitous pay-

The latter case encouraged his Lordship to think that where, as in the instant cases, what was at issue was the consequence of a misrepresentation or non-disclosure made by the fiduciary which had caused the beneficiary to authorise the application of his moneys in a particular way, the only sensible approach to the question of compensation for the consequences of the misrepresentation or non-disclosure was to consider what would have happened if there had been no misrepresentation or the appropriate disclosure had been made.

Where the fiduciary had induced the giving of authority by a statement which he knew to be untrue, it might be that the policy so clearly articulated in the speech of Lord Steyn in *Smith New Court Securities Ltd v Scrimgeour Vickers (Asset Management) Ltd* (1997) AC 254 which applied in the case of common law deceit resulting in compensation assessed on the restitutory or "but for" basis should apply to the question of compensation in equity.

Short of that, his Lordship did not see why equity should close its eyes to what the beneficiary would have done if there had been no misrepresentation or the appropriate disclosure had been made.

The correct approach to equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty, except where the fiduciary had acted dishonestly or in bad faith, was to assess what actual loss had resulted from the breach, having regard to the scope of the duty broken. The court could have regard to any evidence which, on the evidence, could properly be drawn as to what would have happened if the fiduciary had performed his duty.

Failing any such evidence, the beneficiary was entitled to be placed in the position he was in before the breach occurred. That assumed that the beneficiary could show that but for the breach of duty, he would not have acted in the way which had caused his loss.

The view that *Brickenden* did not prevent a fiduciary from pro-

ving what the client beneficiary would have done if there had been no breach of fiduciary duty now appeared to prevail in the courts of New Zealand and Canada.

Those courts in recent cases had interpreted *Brickenden* to mean that, once breach of fiduciary duty was established through the failure of the fiduciary to disclose material facts to the beneficiary, it was not open to the court to speculate on the course the beneficiary would have taken had the duty been discharged.

It was nevertheless open to the fiduciary, on whom the onus lay, to show if he could, what the beneficiary would have done if there had been no breach of fiduciary duty and whether, therefore, the beneficiary had suffered any and if so what loss which should be compensated.

As to the issue of lender fault in equity, his Lordship said that in English law contributory negligence had never been a defence to an intentional tort. In such cases the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945 had no application.

By parity of reasoning, his Lordship could see no good reason why equity should adopt a less rigorous approach. His Lordship therefore took the view that, in order to establish a breach of fiduciary duty it was necessary to find that the fiduciary was consciously disloyal to the beneficiary, the fiduciary was disabled from asserting that the beneficiary contributed to the loss which he suffered flowing from the breach.

That did not mean that the conduct of the person to whom the fiduciary duty was owed was irrelevant. There came a point, following the breach of the fiduciary duty, where the loss was too re-

mote for the breach to be said to be a loss flowing from it or where the claimant's own conduct came into play as a factor determining the loss for which he could recover.

His Lordship also commented on the benefit of the managed list procedure adopted in the trial of the 12 actions, which were a representative cross-section of more than 400 claims mounted by the plaintiff.

His Lordship said that by the procedure he was enabled to obtain a more balanced view of the way the plaintiff operated than if he had tried a single trial only.

In particular, his Lordship was better able to assess, partly by virtue of the plaintiff's extensive discovery in the action, what the plaintiff's response should have been to the information supplied to it by the applicant borrowers (relevant to contributory negligence) and how it would have reacted to the disclosures which it said the defendant solicitors should have made to it (relevant to causation).

His Lordship found levels of contributory negligence by the plaintiff in many cases which reduced the damages to which it was entitled by amounts ranging between 20 per cent and 90 per cent of the sums claimed.

Factors his Lordship took into account in making those findings included failing to heed warnings issued by the industry regulator concerning the need to be prudent about lending, placing too much emphasis on the value of the underlying security and too little on the borrower's conveniences, lending at excessively high loan to value percentages and failing to spell out its reporting needs in its printed instructions to solicitors.

Solicitors: Burgess Salmon, Bristol; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Enforcing award in foreign arbitration

Minmetals Germany GmbH v Ferro Steel Ltd
Before Mr Justice Colman
[Judgment January 20]

By agreeing the place of a foreign arbitration, a party not only agreed to submit all contractual disputes to arbitration but also agreed that the conduct of the arbitration should be subject to the supervisory jurisdiction of the courts of that place.

Mr Justice Colman so held in the Queen's Bench Division when upholding the order of Mr Justice Cresswell made on January 12, 1998, under section 101 of the Arbitration Act 1996, giving leave to Minmetals Germany GmbH to enforce against Ferro Steel Ltd an award dated September 29, 1995 in an initial arbitration, and an award dated March 20, 1997 in the resumed arbitration, conducted under the auspices of the China International Economic Trade Arbitration Commission, of Beijing.

Mr Duncan Mathews for Minmetals, Mr Michael Swainston for Ferro.

MR JUSTICE COLMAN said it was common ground that the awards were enforceable in England under the Arbitration Act 1975 which gave effect to the New York Convention on the Recognition of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958: see Fifth Report of the International Law Committee 1961 (Cmd 1515).

Nor was it disputed by Ferro that unless it could persuade the Beijing court to order a retrial and, as a result, the Beijing court ordered revocation, the awards were, as they stood, final and enforceable under Chinese law.

Section 102(1) and (2) of the Arbitration Act 1996 expressly provided that such awards must be enforced unless the party against whom enforcement was sought proved that the case fell within one of the exceptions in subsection (2).

With regard to the court's power under section 103(3) to decline to enforce or recognise an award on the grounds of inarbitrability of the subject matter or of enforcement being contrary to public policy, whereas it was always open to the court to take an illegality point of its own volition, if a respondent to enforcement wished to rely on matters within subsection (3), the burden of making good the objection to enforcement clearly rested on that party.

Article 23 of the arbitration commission rules was clearly and expressly applicable to the conduct of arbitrators in making their award. His Lordship was in no doubt that in making the first award they had not acted in accordance with international practices and the principles of fairness and reasonableness.

However, the position following the Beijing court's order for a resumed hearing was that the evidence relied on by the arbitrators was open to challenge by means of a request for sight of the award and of the evidence on which it was based.

Since no such challenge was advanced, Ferro had waived its right to object to the continuing omission of the arbitrators to disclose the award under article 45 of the rules.

The public policy issue arose in relation to the New York Convention award made pursuant to a Chinese agreed arbitral authority. In international commerce, a party who contracted into an agreement to arbitrate in a foreign jurisdiction was bound not only by the local arbitration procedure but also by the supervisory jurisdiction of the courts of the seat of the arbitration.

If the award was defective or the arbitration was defectively conducted, the party who complained of the defect must in the first instance pursue such remedies as existed under that supervisory jurisdiction.

Adherence to that part of the arbitration agreement must be a cardinal policy consideration by an English court considering enforcement of a foreign award.

In a case where a party against whom enforcement was sought alleged that a New York Convention award should not be enforced on the ground that such enforcement would lead to substantial injustice, the English public policy, the following must normally be included among the relevant considerations:

1 The nature of the procedural irregularity.

2 Whether that party had invoked the supervisory jurisdiction of the seat of the arbitration.

3 Whether a remedy was available under that jurisdiction.

4 Whether the courts of that jurisdiction had conclusively determined the enforceability of the award.

5 If that party had failed to invoke that remedial jurisdiction, what reason had he and, in particular, whether he was acting unreasonably in failing to do so.

Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley; Ince & Co.

European Patent Convention forum shopping

Sepracor Inc v Hoechst Marion Roussel Ltd and Others
Before Mr Justice Laddie
[Judgment January 29]

The court would not exercise its discretion so as to make an order which prevented a party from litigating in a court where, under the European Patent Convention, he was entitled to sue. Facts which gave rise only to an inference that a defendant had knowingly facilitated or assisted another person to infringe were insufficient to constitute him a joint tortfeasor.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, on the hearing of an application by the first to fifth defendants: Hoechst Marion Roussel Ltd, Marion Merrell Ltd, Hoechst AG, Hoechst Marion Roussel AG, Hoechst Marion Roussel Deutschland GmbH and Hoechst Marion Roussel Inc, an American subsidiary of the third defendant, to strike out proceedings against them commenced by the plaintiff, Sepracor Inc, in England on September 28, 1998, seeking a declaration that European Patent (UK) 1,701,433 and the equivalent designations of it in each of 12 other countries, including Denmark and France, but not Belgium, were valid. The seventh defendant, Georgetown University, was co-proprietor with Sepracor of that patent.

Mr Richard Meade for Sepracor, Mr Andrew Waugh, QC, for the first to sixth defendants.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that the UK patent in suit concerned an antihistamine drug, terfenadine carboxylate, various Hoechst companies, in various countries, marketed a rival product under the trade marks "Telfast" or "Alkera".

On May 4, 1998 the fifth defendant and a Belgian company in the Hoechst group had commenced proceedings in Belgium against Sepracor. There had been no pleaded evidence that a patent action there would take some five years to come to trial and any appeal would take another five.

Among practitioners, such forum shopping was called "deploying the Belgian torpedo".

No pleadings responsive to Sepracor's writ and statement of claim having been served, on December 4, the first defendant petitioned the High Court to revoke Sepracor's UK patent and launched the present notice of motion to strike out its writ and statement of claim on the ground, inter alia, that it was not open to Sepracor to sue here in respect of infringement in other countries when the validity of the patents themselves were in issue.

Anyone uncontaminated by familiarity with the European Patent Convention and having to litigate in a national court, might think Germany, the source of all the Hoechst drugs to be sold in Europe, was the obvious forum for seeking validity and infringement.

But that was the course both sides wished to avoid: Hoechst wanting the German and French issues decided in Belgium; Sepracor in England. Further, in relation to all countries except England, Sepracor wanted to restrain local inquiries without using the local companies' primary responsibility for alleged infringements.

In the light of *Fort Dodge Ltd v Alko Nobel NV* (1998) FSR 222 Sepracor had conceded, without formally agreeing, that the pleaded claims in relation to the foreign designations were not justifiable here so all the relevant parts of the pleadings and particulars of infringement would be struck out.

Mr Waugh had also cited *Sachar Corporation v Wilf* (1993) Ch 410 as justifying a strike-out of those parts under Order 15, rule 5(1) or Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court as likely to prejudice embarrassment or delay the trial of the purely domestic issues.

His Lordship did not accept that authority as justifying that course. Courts here frequently had to decide issues of foreign law.

The choice was between one action here, with evidence relating to 12 countries' laws, nearly identical.

As most of ESB's service contracts only provided for the company to be paid in the event of its efforts on behalf of the client being successful, the company's activities were initially largely financed through loans made by Mr MacPherson.

When the plaintiffs decided to leave ESB in February 1991, a revised shareholders' agreement dated February 28, 1991 provided for loss received after that date to be applied in the following order: in payment of accrued liabilities; in repayment of the loans made by Mr MacPherson; in repayment of loans made by Mr Lyman.

Any surplus was to be distributed between the two plaintiffs and Mr Lyman in the proportions 25:25:50 as payment for consultancy services provided by them to ESB. Under this provision each of the plaintiffs claimed £38,852.94.

His Lordship rejected Mr Wright's submission that the revised shareholders' agreement constituted an unlawful distribution of company property contrary to section 23 of the Companies Act 1985.

The agreement provided for the payment of the company's overheads, and the balance was more naturally to be regarded as deferred remuneration for those who had previously worked without pay in the expectation of receiving a share of the company's future profits than as a gratuitous pay-

Distribution to departing shareholders lawful

MacPherson and Another v European Strategic Bureau Ltd
Before Mr Justice Ferris
[Judgment January 24]

There was no unlawful distribution contrary to section 23(1) of the Companies Act 1985 where the shareholders of a quasi-partnership in which the participants received any income only from the profits made by the business, entered into an agreement under which departing shareholders were paid a percentage of profits earned under contracts on which they had worked prior to their departure in proportion to their former stake in the company.

Mr Justice Ferris so held in a reserved judgment in favour of each of the plaintiffs, Mr Iain Francis Duncan MacPherson and Miss Susan Trevelin, in the sum of £35,834.44, money due to them from the defendants, European Strategic Bureau Ltd, under the revised shareholders' agreement dated February 28, 1991.

Mr Pughdaniel Saint for the plaintiffs, Mr Robert Wright, QC, for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE FERRIS said that in 1989 the plaintiffs and a Mr Richard Lyman set up the defendant company to provide investment banking services to European offshore companies.

At the time, the company was a private limited liability company with three shareholders: the plaintiffs and Mr Lyman. The company's activities were initially largely financed through loans made by Mr MacPherson.

When the plaintiffs decided to leave ESB in February 1991, a revised shareholders' agreement dated February 28, 1991 provided for loss received after that date to be applied in the following order: in payment of accrued liabilities; in repayment of the loans made by Mr MacPherson; in repayment of loans made by Mr Lyman.

Any surplus was to be distributed between the two plaintiffs and Mr Lyman in the proportions 25:25:50 as payment for consultancy services provided by them to ESB. Under this provision each of the plaintiffs claimed £38,852.94.

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The agreement provided for the payment of the company's overheads, and the balance was more naturally to be regarded as deferred remuneration for those who had previously worked without pay in the expectation of receiving a share of the company's future profits than as a gratuitous pay-

ment of ESB's money to its shareholders.

His Lordship rejected an alternative submission that the plaintiffs, and Mr Lyman, had failed to declare their interests prior to entering into the revised shareholders' agreement contrary to section 317 of the 1985 Act.

There was unanimous shareholder approval of the agreement and no amount of formal disclosure could have increased the other shareholders' relevant knowledge.

In any event a breach of section 317 would only have made the shareholders' agreement voidable. Reliance on such a contravention could only benefit ESB if it had the opportunity to rescind the agreement and had in fact done so.

Mr MacPherson has resigned his directorship, and both plaintiffs have transferred their shares to Mr Lyman pursuant to the terms of the agreement, which had been performed in a number of respects. It was now impossible for ESB to rescind.

Solicitors: Thomson Snell & Passmore, Tunbridge Wells; Bristows Cooke & Carmichael.

Correction
In *Preston Borough Council v McGrath* (The Times February 15) the solicitors for Preston were Davies Wallis Foster, Liverpool.

Revised Interest Rates

Amended Investment and Savings Rates. Effective from 1st March 1999.

Previous						New					
Minimum Investment	AER* Excluding Bonuses	AER* Including Maximum Bonus	Gross* Including Bonus	Gross* Excluding Bonus	Net**	Minimum Investment	AER* Excluding Bonuses	AER* Including Maximum Bonus	Gross* Including Bonus	Gross* Excluding Bonus	Net**
Premium Saver (Annually)						Premium Saver (Annually)					
£100,000+	5.25%	6.25%	6.25%	5.25%	4.20%	£100,000+	4.75%	5.75%	5.75%	4.75%	3.80%
£50,000	5.00%	6.00%	6.00%	5.00%	4.00%	£50,000	4.50%	5.50%	5.50%	4.50%	3.60%
£20,000	4.75%	5.75%	5.75%	4.75%	3.80%	£20,000	4.00%	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%	3.20%
Premium Saver (Monthly)						Premium Saver (Monthly)					
£100,000+	5.22%	6.22%	6.10%	5.10%	4.08%	£100,000+	4.75%	5.75%	5.65%	4.65%	3.72%
£50,000	4.96%	5.96%	5.85%	4.85%	3.88%	£50,000	4.49%	5.49%	5.40%	4.40%	3.52%
£20,000	4.75%	5.75%	5.65%	4.65%	3.72%	£20,000	3.97%	4.97%	4.90%	3.90%	3.12%
Higher Saver (Annually)						Higher Saver (Annually)					
£100,000+	4.75%	5.25%	5.25%	4.75%	3.80%	£100,000+	4.25%	4.75%	4.75%	4.25%	3.40%
£50,000	4.50%	5.00%	5.00%	4.50%	3.60%	£50,000	3.75%	4.25%	4.25%	3.75%	3.00%
£1,000	4.25%	4.75%	4.75%	4.25%	3.40%	£1,000	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%	3.50%	2.80%
Higher Saver (Monthly)						Higher Saver (Monthly)					
£100,000+	4.75%	5.25%	5.15%	4.65%	3.72%	£100,000+	4.23%	4.73%	4.65%	4.15%	3.32%
£50,000	4.49%	4.99%	4.90%	4.40%	3.52%	£50,000	3.71%	4.21%	4.15%	3.65%	2.92%
£1,000	4.23%	4.73%	4.65%	4.15%	3.32%	£1,000	3.45%	3.95%	3.90%	3.40%	2.72%
Regular Saver (Annually)						Regular Saver (Annually)					
£20+	3.75%	6.75%	6.75%	3.75%	3.00%	£20+	3.25%	6.25%	6.25%	3.25%	2.60%
Minimum Balance Flexible Savings and Flexible Savings CashCard Account**						Minimum Balance Flexible Savings and Flexible Savings CashCard Account**					
£100,000+	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.00%	2.60%	£100,000+	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	2.60%	2.20%
£50,000	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	2.75%	2.40%	£50,000	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	2.40%	2.00%
£20,000	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	2.50%	2.00%	£20,000	2.75%	2.75%	2.7		

The non-executives are: **Winfried Bischoff**, 56, chairman of Schroders; **Janet Morgan**, 52, writer and businesswoman; **David Nash**, 58, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan's food business; and **Raymond Seitz**, 57, vice-chairman of Lehman Brothers and a former US Ambassador to the UK.

With luck Wallace's appointment will end nine years of management instability at C&W stretching back nine years to the days when Lord Young of Graffham was chairman. The comings and goings have been such that Rod Olsen, who has run the Asia Pacific businesses, and is soon to leave the company to start a new life in Australia, has had to fill in as acting chief executive.

antithesis to his predecessor, Dick
e, is the ownership of One-2-One

faces three or four big decisions: One-2-One, the challenge of the 1990s, is right."

Id, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson

As the former head of CWA, Graham Wallace may find him-

Consulting who are giving us the business that three years ago we would not have got because they believe we can provide the packaging that they want.

RAYMOND SNODDY

Ethical expression.....	7/10
Fat-Cat quotient.....	7/10
Financial record.....	6/10
Share performance.....	5/10
Attitude to staff.....	8/10
Strength of Brand.....	7/10
Innovation.....	8/10
Annual report.....	6/10
City star rating.....	6/10
Future Prospects.....	9/10
Total.....	69/100

Ethical expression is epitomized by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by Chris Consulting.

1986/85					1986/85					1986/85					1986/85				
High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Wtd %	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Wtd %	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Wtd %	P/E		
3	04	2.40	10	9	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
133	9	1.00	10	9	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
133	9	1.00	10	9	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
157	9	1.00	10	9	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
157	9	1.00	10	9	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
67	44	5.87	40	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
67	44	5.87	40	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
80	39	31.70	Albion & Sd	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
80	39	31.70	Albion & Sd	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
43	24	10.10	Ally	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
102	62	10.20	Amalgamated	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
102	62	10.20	Amalgamated	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
88	88	33.00	Anglo Siam Oil	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
88	88	33.00	Anglo Siam Oil	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
72	72	7.60	Antelope Park Co	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
72	72	7.60	Antelope Park Co	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
110	62	4.70	Arden	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
110	62	4.70	Arden	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
100	50	6.65	Arden (UK)	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
100	50	6.65	Arden (UK)	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
235	124	71.30	BATM Adv Concess	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
235	124	71.30	BATM Adv Concess	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
115	3	2.32	Barclay Health	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
115	3	2.32	Barclay Health	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
4	28	3.91	Beaumont	28	...	409	170	15	10	10	...	46	17	3.94	20		
4	28	3.91	Beaumont	28	...	409	170	15	1										

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French efforts to cut jobless figures rebound

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE French Government's efforts to attack unemployment through a cut in working hours is turning into an expensive fiasco that will handicap French companies, according to new research.

The study shows that, half-way through a two-year programme, the scheme has created just 24,155 jobs. France's Socialist-led Government had hoped that it would create between 400,000 and 700,000 over the period.

But the project is not only inefficient, but also costly. An investigation by the pro-Government news magazine, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, concluded that it could end up costing the state between Fr6.5 billion (£0.7 billion) and Fr10 billion (£1.1 billion) for the foreseeable future.

"This is a figure that makes the Finance Ministry red with rage," said the magazine.

Analysts say the only benefit from the legislation will be increased flexibility in France's otherwise rigid working practices. The flagship policy of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's Government was once touted as a French response to a French problem - high unemployment - just under three million.

Companies employing more than 200 people were given two years to negotiate a reduction in the working week from 39 to 35 hours with no loss of pay for staff. Smaller firms have twice as long. Employers who meet the timetable are rewarded with tax reductions of Fr5,000 per worker per year.

Croissance Plus, an association that represents blue-chip firms, said the move will add Fr5 million to the costs of the average medium-sized firm, even after state aid of Fr2 million. As a result, most industrialists are doing their best to get round the legislation.

Nowhere was this clearer than in the deal struck by unions representing 1.8 million metal workers and miners with employers such as Renault, the carmaker. The working week created by four hours, basic salaries remained the same, and overtime rose. In return, union leaders agreed to flexible working patterns.

BAA says terminal failure will cost £250m

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BAA, the airports operator, will this week put a £250 million price tag on failure to win approval for a fifth terminal at Heathrow. Lawyers for the company will set out the high cost of work already completed on the £1.8 billion project that is running at least five years behind schedule.

BAA will make its final submission to the Terminal Five inquiry, which is entering the last fortnight of its marathon run of almost three years.

The cost of buying land, of designing the building and paying for legal claims at the inquiry has been a huge drain on BAA, which must now wait until at least 2001 before ministers finally decide whether to give the scheme the go-ahead. If successful, BAA hopes to open the terminal in 2006.

In this week's summing-up, David Silcock, BAA's counsel, will tell the inquiry that the company will accept a legally binding freeze on the number of night flights to try to meet local fears about noise. However, he will reject as unworkable protesters' demands for a total ban on night flights.

BAA, whose chief executive is Sir John Egan, is confident that it could win approval and believe the length of the inquiry has strengthened its case, although the company has some fears that conditions attached to approval could make the project unviable.

Des Wilson, BAA's corpo-

rate director, said: "Everything that we warned about at the beginning of the inquiry is now being shown to be true." Congestion at Heathrow, both at the airport and on surrounding roads, is deterring many passengers and some airlines from using the world's busiest international airport.

The massive growth of rival airports at Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Paris has underlined fears that Britain could lose its pre-eminence as an international link, unless extra capacity is provided. The airport is struggling to cope with its 58 million annual passengers but BAA says an extra terminal would enable it to set a permanent ceiling of 80 million passengers.

The company insists that it would never build a third runway that would allow passenger numbers to surge towards 100 million. Campaigners against the terminal remain unconvinced and have used their final submissions to the inquiry to underline their concerns that an additional terminal will lead to further expansion of the airport and even greater growth than predicted by BAA.

Traffic at Heathrow is growing by just 3 per cent because of the capacity constraints on airlines. That compares with an overall 7 per cent rise in airline traffic for all of BAA's airports, much of which is being generated at Stansted which is accommodating spillover traffic from Heathrow and Gatwick.



Sir John Egan, left, and Russell Walls, BAA finance director, with a model of the fifth terminal

Float looming for Canary Wharf project

BY MARTIN WALLER

CANARY WHARF is this week expected to confirm plans for a stock market float and to indicate what proportion of the company will be offered to investors.

The decision will boost the troubled property share market, which on Friday received further negative news as BAA cancelled plans to float its property subsidiary, Lynton.

Although Canary Wharf, which owns and developed the London Docklands site, has never confirmed intending to float, all the advisers are now in place and preparations are in hand for a spring market debut that would value the company at more than £2 billion.

The final decision is expected to go to the wire, given the current state of the markets. However, it is expected that Canary Wharf will announce a decision and give a guide as to how much of the company will be floated.

Although a float could raise new funds, the main aim will

be to offer an exit for the group of investors who bought the company from the banks after its bankruptcy in 1992. They include Franklin Mutual and CNA Financial, two US funds, Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi investor, and Paul Reichmann, the Canadian property developer who initiated the scheme only to see it bring about the collapse of his business empire.

Canary Wharf has 4.7 million sq ft built and 2.1 million sq ft under development. The float prospectus is likely to focus more on growth prospects and the further 6.5 million sq ft potentially available on undeveloped land, and the probability of rises in rental levels as tenancies granted when the development was in financial difficulties come up for renewal.

Crucial to a float is the arrival this year of the Jubilee Line extension of the Tube. An attempt to take the project public last year was pulled because of stock market uncertainty.

Grid gets chief at Littlewoods

BY SAEED SHAH

JAMES ROSS, chairman of Littlewoods, the retail group, is to succeed David Jefferies as chairman of National Grid, the electricity network.

Mr Ross, aged 60, will join the National Grid board today and take over as non-executive chairman when Mr Jefferies retires at the company's annual general meeting in July. He will remain non-executive chairman of Littlewoods.

Before joining Littlewoods, Mr Ross was chief executive of Cable & Wireless, from 1992 to 1995. He had earlier been managing director of British Petroleum and chairman and chief operating officer of BP America.

Mr Jefferies said: "James Ross's knowledge of the energy and telecoms sectors, together with his experience in overseas markets, suits him ideally to

the group as it expands... beyond our core UK business." National Grid last month announced a 50 per cent interest in a Brazilian telecoms consortium, in which it will put up to £200 million over four years.



Ross: overseas experience

Asda ready to fight back in price war

BY SAEED SHAH

ASDA, the supermarket chain, is preparing to deliver a broadside in the latest round of the supermarket price war, with plans for extensive price cuts.

Asda is thought to be responding to an initiative by

Tesco, which tried to outmanoeuvre its rivals earlier this month by cutting the prices of hundreds of products. Asda is believed to be preparing a response, which could be unveiled as early as next week.

The Tesco initiative, which covers all its 600 stores, saw

the prices of some 240 items reduced by up to 25 per cent. The campaign is thought to be costing Tesco up to £1 million a week in lost revenues.

Asda refused to give any details of its plan over the weekend but it is believed that it will pledge to undercut its ri-

vals permanently and cut the cost of thousands of items. Price-cutting promotions have increased ahead of the results of the official investigation into competition among the big supermarkets.

The Office of Fair Trading inquiry into profits of the four lead-

ing chains, which together control 45 per cent of the £87 billion-a-year grocery market, was due to report before Christmas. It is expected to reveal its decision in the spring, which will determine whether a full-scale inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is appropriate.

Olivetti wins approval for Telecom bid

BY CARL MORTIMER, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

TELECOM ITALIA has been pushed back on to the defensive by Consob, the Italian stock market regulator that has approved Olivetti's £30 billion bid for the telephone utility.

Olivetti's success in winning the opening skirmish in the David v Goliath battle means that Telecom Italia will be unable to put into place poison pills or a restructuring of the business designed to deter Olivetti.

Telecom Italia had indicated its interest in merging its 40 per cent mobile-phone affiliate, TIM, a move that would have put the phone utility beyond the financial reach of Olivetti.

Franco Bernabè, Telecom Italia's chief executive, said: "I don't have any poison pills in my pocket but I have a plan: increasing the value of our company."

Consob gave the go-ahead for Olivetti's bid at Telecom Italia over the weekend after initially ruling the bid inadmissible. Consob objected to the conditionality of the offer which depends on securing a deal with Mannesmann, Olivetti's German partner, under which

Mannesmann would buy Olivetti's share in Omnitel and Infostrada, the fast-growing mobile and fixed-line telecoms businesses.

The Consob decision means that Olivetti's offer must be launched in April. The lengthy interregnum is necessary for Mannesmann to secure approval from the Government for the takeover of the Omnitel and Infostrada licences.

Olivetti failed to increase its offer from €10 (£0.80) per share but the deal approved by Consob includes a five trillion lire (£1.7 billion) cash call by Olivetti and former arrangements with Mannesmann.

Both Olivetti and Telecom Italia face a new competitor in the telecoms sector. Wind, a joint venture between Enel, the energy utility, France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom which plans to secure up to 1.5 million users in 1999.

Wind launches its service on Monday and claims an advantage over Olivetti and Telecom Italia because it is selling both fixed and mobile services at the same time.

Williams out to rescue its image

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

WILLIAMS, the 1980s-style conglomerate, will this week try to improve its battered image by highlighting growth in its Australian operations.

It may be Williams's last chance to convince investors that the paint-to-fire extinguishers group can achieve respectable earnings growth and improve a depressed market rating. Its shares have badly underperformed the FTSE 100 over five years and failure to outpace the City could lead to calls for radical changes and management upheaval. Williams hopes to meet analysts'

demands for organic sales growth of up to 10 per cent in its Australian security and fire protection business.

The crucial figure will be given on Thursday in Williams's annual profit result, expected to be in line with City forecasts of £300 million before tax. Williams aims to use the profit report to argue that its move away from manufacturing and into fire protection and security services will deliver earnings growth and a rating closer to a service rather than manufacturing business. It sees its Australian side as a model.

revised interest rates

NOTICE TO ALL BORROWERS						
The Society's standard variable base rate for existing borrowers will be reduced to 6.95% from 1st March 1999 or at such other time in accordance with the terms of the mortgage deed.						
NOTICE TO INVESTORS						
REVISED INTEREST RATES						
EFFECTIVE AT 1st MARCH 1999						
CURRENT ISSUES						
AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS%	NET%	AER%	GROSS%	NET%	AER%
PREVIOUS RATE						
NEW RATE						
NOVA PLUS SPECIAL ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest £200,000 - £200,000	4.00	3.20	4.00	3.60	2.80	3.60
NOVA PLUS (ISSUE 2) NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2)						
Annual Interest £50,000 - £200,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£200,000 - £499,999	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£500,000 - £999,999	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£1,000,000 - £499,999	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
Monthly Interest £50,000 - £200,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£200,000 - £499,999	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£500,000 - £999,999	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£1,000,000 - £499,999	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
NOVA STAR (TENTH ISSUE)						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £200,000	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80	4.75
£200,000 - £499,999	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80	4.75
£500,000 - £999,999	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80	4.75
£1,000,000 - £499,999	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80	4.75
Monthly Interest £10,000 - £200,000	5.00	4.00	5.12	4.50	3.60	4.59
£200,000 - £499,999	5.00	4.00	5.12	4.50	3.60	4.59
£500,000 - £999,999	5.00	4.00	5.12	4.50	3.60	4.59
£1,000,000 - £499,999	5.00	4.00	5.12	4.50	3.60	4.59
NOVA 18 SAVINGS ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest £1 - £10,000	4.55	3.64	4.55	4.05	3.24	4.05
NOVA ACCESS DIRECT 2						
Annual Interest £50,000 - £100,000	6.40	5.12	6.40	6.00	4.80	6.00
£100,000 - £199,999	6.40	5.12	6.40	6.00	4.80	6.00
£200,000 - £499,999	6.40	5.12	6.40	6.00	4.80	6.00
£500,000 - £999,999	6.40	5.12	6.40	6.00	4.80	6.00
£1,000,000 - £499,999	6.40	5.12	6.40	6.00	4.80	6.00
Monthly Interest £50,000 - £100,000	6.15	4.92	6.33	5.75	4.60	5.90
£100,000 - £199,999	6.15	4.92	6.33	5.75	4.60	5.90
£200,000 - £499,999	6.15	4.92	6.33	5.75	4.60	5.90
£500,000 - £999,999	6.15	4.92	6.33	5.75	4.60	5.90
£1,000,000 - £499,999	6.15	4.92	6.33	5.75	4.60	5.90
TESSE 3						
Annual Interest £1,000 - £9,000	6.25	-	6.25	5.75	-	5.75
DIRECT 60 J						
Annual Interest £200,000 - £500,000	6.80	5.44	6.80	6.40	5.12	6.40
£500,000 - £999,999	6.80	5.44	6.80	6.40	5.12	6.40
£1,000,000 - £499,999	6.80	5.44	6.80	6.40	5.12	6.40
Monthly Interest £200,000 - £500,000	6.55	5.24	6.75	6.15	4.92	6.33
£500,000 - £999,999	6.55	5.24	6.75	6.15	4.92	6.33
£1,000,000 - £499,999	6.55	5.24	6.75	6.15	4.92	6.33
PORTFOLIO PLUS - NO NOTICE ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £120,000	6.05	4.84	6.05	5.55	4.44	5.55
£120,000 - £199,999	6.05	4.84	6.05	5.55	4.44	5.55
£200,000 - £499,999	6.05	4.84	6.05	5.55	4.44	5.55
£500,000 - £999,999	6.05	4.84	6.05	5.55	4.44	5.55
£1,000,000 - £499,999	6.05	4.84	6.05	5.55	4.44	5.55
Monthly Interest £10,000 - £120,000	5.80	4.64	5.96	5.30	4.24	5.43
£120,000 - £199,999	5.80	4.64	5.96	5.30	4.24	5.43
£200,000 - £499,999	5.80	4.64	5.96	5.30	4.24	5.43
£500,000 - £999,999	5.80	4.64	5.96	5.30	4.24	5.43
£1,000,000 - £499,999	5.80	4.64	5.96	5.30	4.24	5.43

CLOSED ISSUES (ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE)						
AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS%	NET%	AER%	GROSS%	NET%	AER%
PREVIOUS RATE			NEW RATE			
NOVA PLUS/NOVA GROSS/NO NOTICE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT						
(INCLUDING OTHER DEBIT TRANSFERS ON MATURITY) (RED RAIS DO NOT APPLY TO NOVA GROSS)						
Annual Interest:	£50,000 - £100,000	3.20	2.56	3.20	2.72	3.40
	£100,000 - £249,999	3.20	2.56	3.20	2.72	3.40
	£250,000 - £499,999	2.80	2.24	2.80	2.40	2.72
	£500,000 - £499,999	1.80	1.44	1.80	1.44	1.72
	£1 - £999	0.40	0.32	0.40	0.32	0.32
Monthly Interest:	£50,000 - £100,000	3.20	2.56	3.20	2.72	3.45
	£100,000 - £249,999	3.20	2.56	3.25	2.80	2.24
	£250,000 - £499,999	2.80	2.24	2.84	2.40	2.43
MONTHLY INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £100 OR MORE						
SMALL SAVERS/SMALL SAVERS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest:	£1 - £999	2.90	2.32	2.90	2.40	2.40
CLUB ACCOUNT/CLUB DEPOSIT ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest:	£50,000 - £99,999	3.55	2.84	3.55	3.05	2.44
	£100,000 - £499,999	3.55	2.84	3.55	3.05	2.44
	£500,000 - £999,999	3.20	2.64	3.35	2.80	2.24
	£1,000,000 - £499,999	2.55	2.04	2.58	2.05	1.84
MONTHLY INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £100 OR MORE THE ACCOUNT WAS ONLY AVAILABLE TO CHURCH, CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS.						
NOVA 50 th						
Annual Interest:	£50,000 - £200,000	6.30	5.04	6.30	5.80	5.80
Monthly Interest:	£50,000 - £200,000	6.30	4.84	6.22	5.55	5.44
Annual Interest:	£200,000 - £300,000	6.30	5.04	6.22	5.55	5.44
NOVA GROSS SPECIAL ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest:	£200,000 - £300,000	4.00	-	4.00	3.60	-
Annual Interest:	£300,000 - £400,000	4.00	-	4.00	3.60	-
TESSA & TESSA 2						
Annual Interest:	£1 - £999	6.25	-	6.25	5.75	-
SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS. YEARLY LIMITS APPLY TO PRODUCT.						
DIRECT 88						
Annual Interest:	£100,000 - £300,000	6.45	5.16	6.45	5.95	5.95
Monthly Interest:	£100,000 - £300,000	6.20	4.96	6.38	5.70	5.85
THIS PRODUCT WAS ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH-MONICASTER DIRECT						
NOVA STAR (NINTH ISSUE)						
Annual Interest:	£10,000 - £200,000	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80
	£200,000 - £499,999	3.10	2.48	3.10	2.60	2.08
	£1,000,000 - £499,999	2.75	2.20	2.75	2.25	1.80
Monthly Interest:	£10,000 - £200,000	5.00	4.00	5.12	4.50	3.80
	£200,000 - £499,999	2.85	2.28	2.89	2.35	1.88
GUARANTEED TO REMAIN 95% OF THE ABOVE NEWCASTLE PREFERENCE SHARE RATE						
MONTHLY INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £100 OR MORE						
NOVA STAR (EIGHTH ISSUE)						
Annual Interest:	£5,000 - £200,000	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80
Monthly Interest:	£5,000 - £200,000	5.00	4.00	5.12	4.50	3.80
GUARANTEED TO REMAIN 95% OF THE ABOVE NEWCASTLE PREFERENCE SHARE RATE						
MONTHLY INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £100 OR MORE						
NOVA SELECT B						
Annual Interest:	£25,000 - £200,000	5.70	4.56	5.70	5.20	4.16
	£200,000 - £499,999	5.60	4.48	5.60	5.10	4.08
Monthly Interest:	£25,000 - £200,000	5.45	4.36	5.59	4.95	3.96
	£200,000 - £499,999	5.35	4.28	5.48	4.85	3.88
NOVA SUPER FEEDER (S.A.T.E. FEEDER ACCOUNT)						
£5,000 - £200,000		5.15	4.12	5.15	4.65	3.72
NOVA SUPER FEEDER (S.A.T.E. FEEDER ACCOUNT)						
£1 - £1,200		4.15	3.32	4.15	3.65	2.92
HIGH/EXTRA HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNTS						
Annual Interest:	£50,000 - £200,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.36	2.70
	£250 - £499,999	3.38	2.70	3.38	2.92	2.38
Monthly Interest:	£50,000 - £200,000	3.80	3.04	3.87	3.38	2.70
	£5,000 - £499,999	3.38	2.70	3.43	3.38	2.70

The rates quoted are illustrative only and assume a rate of income tax of 20%. Where the tax paid exceeds an investor's tax rate, the tax refund will be sent either by cheque or by direct transfer from the fourth working day (excluding) after income tax is received and the higher tax rate due. Cheques received will arrive within ten days of the date of payment and will be subject to a 10% discount. All payments are made in sterling and are correct at the time of going to press. Further details are available on request. If the account falls below £50,000 it will be closed on 31st March. If the account falls below £10,000 it will be closed on 31st March. If the account falls below £5,000 it will be closed on 31st March. If the account falls below £1,000 it will be closed on 31st March. If the account falls below £500 it will be closed on 31st March. If the account falls below £100 it will be closed on 31st March. If the account falls below £50 it will be closed on 31st March. 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